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FREE Thursday, April 30, 2026 Volume 46, Issue 18



Mayor Annette Groves speaks at the Mayor's annual Community Gala on Friday night. Later that evening, Mayor Groves announced she would not seek re-election for the Town's top job this fall. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

## Mayor Groves announces retirement ahead of upcoming election

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

In a Facebook post shared on Friday evening, April 24, Caledon Mayor Annette Groves announced her retirement. This announcement follows a decades-long career in Caledon politics. Groves was first elected to Caledon council in 2000 and re-elected in 2003 and 2006, when she was elected to Regional Council.

Upon losing the 2010 mayoral election, she had a four-year hiatus from politics before returning to win the 2014 Ward 5 Regional Council race, and again in 2018. In 2022, she was elected Mayor by the Caledon community. In the post shared to her Facebook account, Groves said this decision came after "much reflection," and that this was "not a decision that comes lightly, but one made with careful thought and a deep sense of gratitude." "Serving the residents of Caledon has been

the honour of a lifetime," continued Groves in her video message. "I am deeply thankful for the trust, support and encouragement I have received over the years." She said the strength and spirit of the community is what makes Caledon "such a special place." In the remainder of the video, she expressed her gratitude to Town Staff and thanked her Council colleagues.

Continued on Page A3

## Mayfield students fight to keep courses from budget cuts

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Hundreds of students at Mayfield Secondary School are rallying together to save their repertoire courses from impending budget cuts. Two weeks ago, Mayfield students were gathered around and told that by the beginning of the 2026/27 academic school year, there would be a huge change in the music program the school.




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Continued on Page A8

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# Protestors gathered outside Mayor's Charity Gala

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Friday April 24, just hours before announcing her retirement, Caledon Mayor Annette Groves held her annual charity gala in support of community organizations in Caledon.

The event was held at the International Centre in Mississauga.

Many local leaders and politicians were in attendance that evening, including Premier Doug Ford, who even received a special custom team jacket courtesy of the Humberview Huskies.

Ford was not the only guest that evening.

Two dozen protestors gathered outside the event venue holding signs protesting Ford and Groves' leadership.

Two community groups, HeadwatersStopThe413 and Democracy Caledon, were involved in the protest alongside other individuals.

Signs could be seen reading "Don't pave the greenbelt" and "Caledon's Dirty Deals are not Dirt Cheap."

Member of HeadwatersStopThe413, Sharon Sommerville, says they thought this was



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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### "Celebrating the Heart and Compassion of Caledon: Thank You to our Volunteers!" by Aaron Carvalho, Human Resources Specialist



The week of April 19-25 is special to our team at Caledon Community Services (CCS). Why? It's National Volunteer Week, a chance to celebrate and

recognize the many ways our community ignites the spirit of volunteerism.

We're grateful to all who gift their time and energy to support our community and want to say a special thank you to our volunteers: 851 one-time and active volunteers who delivered 8,974 hours of impact, supporting their neighbours in need.\*

Volunteer Week is a chance to drive home the impact you make when you volunteer. It's a chance to celebrate people like Melodie, who has quietly been a heartbeat of Caledon's compassion for more than 15 years, volunteering thousands of hours to ensure local families facing hardship are supported with food, dignity and warmth.

"I've come full circle from needing help to giving it," says Melodie. "CCS gives me purpose and lets me pay it forward, with purpose and heart."

It's people like Pinder who know giving is more than just an act; it's a way of life. Volunteering allows Pinder to give back close to home, lending a hand, forging friendships and guiding donors through the direct impact of their generosity.

It's sibling duos like Tracy and Stephen who have been part of CCS' story for more than a decade. From leading roles with the Home for the Holidays Gala to rallying coworkers and community for events like the Coldest Night of the Year, they've inspired a culture of giving and generosity that makes Caledon stronger.

"From the first time I heard of CCS, I knew it was an organization I wanted to get involved with because it helps families and the love of family is everything," Tracy shared.

Stephen adds, "My values are so aligned with CCS and I love that by volunteering, I'm able to help neighbours right here at home."

These are just a few stories of caring, compassionate individuals who, through volunteering, help serve individuals, families, children and seniors in our community, making CCS' work better. We're grateful each and every day to those who give their time and energy, and dedicate their community spirit to making Caledon a healthy and engaged community.

Feeling inspired to start your volunteer story with CCS? Call 905-584-2300 ext. 277, email [volunteer@ccs4u.org](mailto:volunteer@ccs4u.org) or visit [ccs4u.org/get-involved](http://ccs4u.org/get-involved) to get started - based on your interests and availability, we'll help you find the right opportunity to get involved!

\*Data source: Caledon Community Services' (CCS) 2024-2025 Impact Report

#### How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.

Emad Amin, Director, People and Culture, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 215 or [eamin@ccs4u.org](mailto:eamin@ccs4u.org)

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

a strong opportunity not only to make a statement to Ford but also to the Mayor.

"Protesting and rallying is one of the few tools that you have," said Sommerville. "We were there to send a strong message of opposition to the way Annette Groves has been leading Caledon in total opposition to her electoral promises."

"Double whammy, we can rally against Mayor Groves and her leadership and policy choices and

Doug Ford, his leadership and policy choices."

She added many in attendance were tired of Ford's "thoughtless policy decisions," as well as many who had hoped for a "slow growth approach" for Caledon following Groves' campaign back in 2022.

"You have to respect your constituents, and that goes for Doug [Ford], and that goes for Annette [Groves]," says Sommerville.

## Caledon seeks works yards to support incoming Regional Road Network

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

With the Town of Caledon set to receive 506 lane kilometres following the Peel Transition Implementation Act, which legislates the transfer of jurisdiction over regional roads and related stormwater infrastructure from Peel Region to Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon, effective July 1, 2027, Caledon is requesting the transfer of works yard facilities from the Region of Peel.

In a motion tabled by Mayor Annette Groves at the April 28th Council meeting, it was stated that with the increase to Caledon's current road network from the transfer, current Caledon works yard facilities are at full operating capacity and cannot accommodate the maintenance and mechanical needs of an increase to its current road network.

It says that the Region of Peel owns two properties suitable for works yard facilities within Caledon, and with the passing of this motion requests these two properties be considered for use as soon as possible to enable the Town to meet the provincial mandate set out in Bill 45 and to prepare to "provide quality, efficient services to the regional road network in Caledon by July 1, 2027."

The two properties are 2941 King Street and 3121 King Street.

For the property at 3121 King Street, the Town would acquire a portion of the property; for 2941 King Street, it would be a short-term lease agreement.

Council raised concerns about the property at 2941 King Street, which recently suffered a large fire on April 5.

Questions were raised about clean-up fees, hazardous materials on-site, and additional fees for the damage.

Commissioner of Engineering, Public Works and Transportation, Domenica D'Amico, answered that the fire wiped out the building in the yard, and it would all have to come down.

"We want to be involved in the rebuild of that yard if at all possible, and redirect some of those funds to the larger facility if we could," said D'Amico, referencing the two properties. "Having access to both of those facilities will certainly help better fit and better prepare Caledon for what's to come in the next year."

The motion states that any capital and operating budgets associated with the current and future works yard facilities be transferred to the Town of Caledon, and that maintenance services on the regional road network be provided by July 1, 2027.

When it comes to questions about cleanup, environmental assessment, and on-site hazards from the blaze, D'Amico said her expectation is that much will be resolved as part of the insurance claim.

Also, as the Town would be continuing the existing use, they can manage any contamination within the property.

The Region was stated to be responsible for cleanup and assessments.

"Due diligence will not be compromised," said D'Amico. "But it's also why we've chosen a lease arrangement on the existing site and full transfer of the property that was slated for development for a new regional yard. Also, the existing yard is much smaller than that other property, so our preference would be to obtain the larger property and do what we need to do appropriately to deal with growth and regional roads."

With more concerns about hazards, D'Amico added that the leased land would provide "much-needed storage space" while they "construct our new facility."

# Municipal staff to look at implementation of Artificial Intelligence tools

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Following a motion tabled by Mayor Annette Groves at the April 28th Council meeting, Council unanimously approved the direction for Staff to investigate artificial intelligence (AI) tools for potential use within the Town of Caledon.

The motion stated that many municipalities across Ontario, such as neighbouring cities such as Brampton and Mississauga, are already using AI tools to “expedite planning workflows, enhance customer service, and improve internal efficiency.”

With the Town expressing a desire to expedite growth and development and has signed a Housing Pledge with the Province of Ontario committing to accelerating housing approvals and supporting the province’s housing targets, Staff will look at how AI tools can potentially expedite applications, similar to surrounding municipalities.

The Town of Caledon is currently in-

vestigating AI tools, including AI-powered search technology, as part of the ongoing website improvement project. The motion stated that this aligns with goals such as the Town of Caledon’s 2023–2035 Strategic Plan commitment to Modernization and Innovation.

Councillor Nick de Boer said at the meeting that if Staff will be using AI, Council should also be aware of how it will be used, to ensure a full understanding of how applications will be dealt with.

He suggested that Staff come back to Council in a workshop format in Council Chambers on how “AI is going to serve residents, and builders and developers, and how it’s going to actually make things better.”

Councillor Tony Rosa added that he learned a lot about these tools after attending a workshop at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on AI technology.

“It’s very worthwhile to have a demo on this for Council and for staff and for any members of the public, because I think once you’ve seen it and the way it

operates, you’ll be as convinced. It was probably, for me, the best two hours of the conference, because it was an incredible tool that proved to be extremely valuable.”

Both Councillors Christina Early and Lynn Kiernan raised concerns about the environmental impact of AI tools and technology.

An amendment was added and approved that a workshop will be prepared to demonstrate how AI will be utilized at the Town of Caledon prior to implementation.

With Staff direction to investigate AI tools for potential use, they will also look at the AI tools currently used by neighbouring municipalities, including but not limited to AI-assisted planning review systems, automated customer service platforms, and AI-supported document analysis tools.

If Staff determines that these tools will assist planning staff in “expediting applications and be more efficient in terms of saving time for both staff and applicants,” staff will be authorized to implement these tools.



Mayor Groves announced her decision to not seek re-election in this video, posted to social media on Friday night.

MAYOR GROVES/FACEBOOK PHOTO

## Groves wil not seek re-election this fall

Continued from FRONT

Groves called her friends and family her constant support system, and thanks them for their patience, encouragement, and for “standing by me throughout this journey.”

She expressed her appreciation to her team and said she could “not have done this without you.”

“Finally, I thank God for guiding me along this path for the opportunity to serve. While this chapter is coming to a close, my commitment to this community will always remain. Thank you, and God Bless you all,” closed Groves.

The video, posted after 9 p.m. on Friday evening came the same evening as her Mayor’s Charity Gala.

With Groves announcing her retirement, there will be no incumbent for Caledon’s top job in this year’s municipal election, slated for October 26.

The nomination period for the election begins on Friday, May 1st.

### MAYOR ANNETTE GROVES MAYOR GROVES’ COLUMN



## The Honor of a Lifetime

After much reflection, I have made the decision to announce my retirement. This is not a decision that comes lightly, but one made with careful thought and a deep sense of gratitude.

Serving the residents of Caledon has been the honor of a lifetime. I am deeply thankful for the trust, support, and encouragement I have received over the years. The strength and spirit of this community is what makes Caledon such a special place.

I am incredibly grateful to the Town staff for their hard work, profession-

alism, and dedication. The impact of your efforts is felt every day, and I am proud of what we have accomplished together.

Working alongside my colleagues has been a privilege. Your commitment to public service and collaboration has helped move our community forward in meaningful ways.

My friends and family have been my constant support system. Thank you for your patience, encouragement, and for standing by me throughout this journey.

To my team, there are not enough words to express my appreciation. Your dedication, long hours, and belief in our work made all the difference. I could not have done this without you.

And finally, I thank God for guiding me along this path and for the opportunity to serve.

While this chapter is coming to a close, my commitment to this community will always remain.

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# First-degree murder charge laid in connection with the 2024 death of a Melancthon man

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have charged one person in connection with the 2024 murder of 65-year-old Melancthon resident David Robson.

Jacek Trela, 29, of Mississauga, was charged with first-degree murder, arson and indignity to a dead body on Tuesday, April 28.

The OPP said others may have been involved in the homicide and is seeking information from the public that could lead to further arrests.

“While an arrest has been made in connection with the homicide of David Robson, we believe other individuals may be involved. We continue to urge anyone with information to contact police. Our goal is to hold all those responsible for David’s death accountable and provide answers to his family,” said OPP Detective Inspector Mark Allison.

On April 1, 2024, officers responded to a report of a deceased individual near the intersection of Chinguacousy Road and King Street in Caledon.

The post-mortem examination confirmed that the deceased was Robson, and the cause of death

was a homicide.

Before Robson’s body was found, he was last seen on March 21, 2024, in Melancthon.

The following day, he was reported missing, along with his vehicle, a black 2017 Kia Sportage with Ontario licence plate DAMZ 252. On the same date, his residence was reported on fire.

Trela remains in custody and was scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on Wednesday, April 29. The charges filed against Trela have not been proven in court.

In late March, a public awareness campaign was launched by the OPP, with a billboard installed along County Road 9 by the intersection of County Road 11. The billboard displayed Robson’s image along with details of his missing vehicle — a 2017 black Kia Sportage bearing Ontario licence plate DAMZ 252.

“The billboard location was selected due to its high traffic volume, maximizing visibility among commuters and individuals traveling through the region. Investigators hoped that someone passing through might recognize the vehicle, recall seeing David Robson, or remember details they

may not have initially connected to the investigation,” said Provincial Constable Andrew Fines from the Dufferin OPP.

“Following the most recent media release and the installation of the billboard, tips were received by police. While we cannot comment on the specifics of those tips, we are grateful for the continued interest and support from both the media and the public. Public outreach remains a valuable tool in advancing investigations, and we encourage anyone with information who has not yet come forward to contact police or, if they wish to remain anonymous, Crime Stoppers.”

Dufferin OPP’s Crime Unit is continuing the

investigation, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner and Ontario Forensic Pathology Service. Assistance is also being provided by OPP Forensic Identification Services.

Police believe other individuals may be involved or have information that could assist the investigation.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or [ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://ontariocrimestoppers.ca).

## FATAL COLLISION INVOLVING SCHOOL BUS

Members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), along with Peel Regional Paramedic Services and the local fire department, responded to a fatal two-vehicle collision in the Town of Caledon.

“On April 24, 2026, at approximately 12:05 p.m., emergency crews were dispatched to Mayfield Road, west of Innis Lake Road, following reports of a serious collision involving a school bus carrying eight occupants and a passenger vehicle operated by a lone driver,” say Police.

The 78-year-old driver of the passenger vehicle was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The school bus driver was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. No additional injuries were reported among the passengers of the school bus.

Mayfield Road, between Innis Lake Road and Airport Road, was fully closed while members of the OPP Technical Traffic Collision Investigation Unit (TTCI) conduct their investigation.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information or dashcam footage is asked to contact the Caledon OPP at 18883101122, or provide information anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 18002228477 or online at [ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://ontariocrimestoppers.ca).

Individuals who witnessed the collision and wish to speak with support services may contact Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services at 9059513838.

## CHARGES RELATED TO SHOOTING

Members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), in collaboration with Peel Regional Police (PRP) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), have arrested and charged an individual in relation to two shooting incidents — one in the Town of Caledon and one in the City of Brampton.

“On Sunday, October 26, 2025, at approximately 3:00 a.m., the OPP responded to a report of a shooting in front of a residence on Old School Road, in the Town of Caledon. No injuries were reported,” say Police. “On the same day, shortly after 3:00 a.m., Peel Regional Police responded to an additional shooting incident on Advance Boulevard in Brampton. These incidents are linked to ongoing extortion-related activity in the area.

“On Friday, April 24, 2026, as part of a collaboration between PRP, OPP and CBSA, investigators travelled to British Columbia where they executed an arrest warrant. Ravinder SINGH, age 23, of British Columbia, was arrested and charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit an indictable offence, contrary to section 465(1)(c) of the Criminal Code.”

The accused remains in custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

The charges have not been proven.

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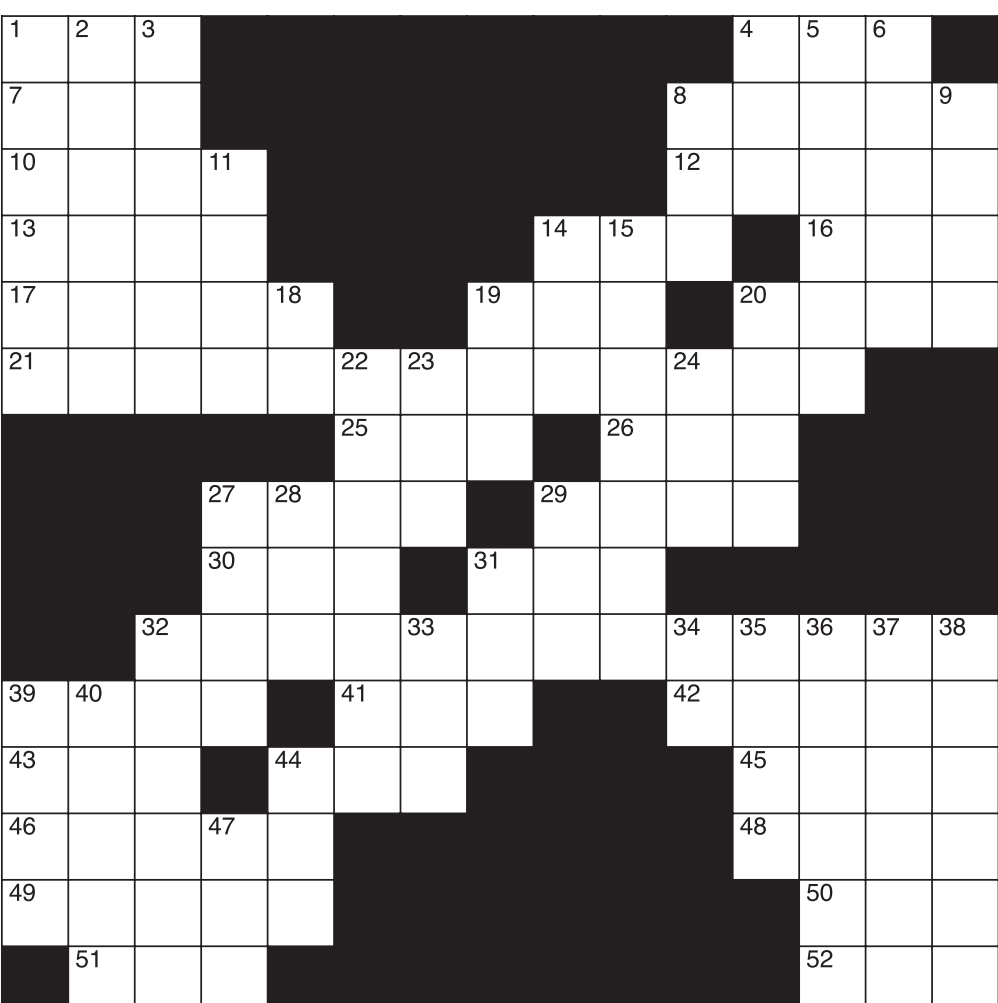


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## The Citizen CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

- Purchase
- British news organization
- Midway between northeast and east
- Language specialist group
- Fancy automobile
- Small loop or series of loops
- Exploiter
- Don't know when yet
- Group of languages
- One who's finished
- After B
- Angled
- A place to adopt pets
- Swiss river
- Young boy
- Unexciting

### Puzzle No.

- American comedian Vidale
- Peyton's little brother
- Corporate higher-up
- "All in the Family" star
- Strike something forcefully
- Up in the air (abbr.)
- Clay earth pigments
- Means to record
- brain activity
- Small constellation
- Embraces
- Brief description
- Exclude
- White (French)
- Insect
- A major division of geological time
- Soviet Socialist Republic

### Solution in the classifieds.

### CLUES DOWN

- Type of whale
- In tune
- A citizen of Yemen
- Actress Ling
- One who supports (abbr.)
- Circus performer
- Yearly tonnage
- Utah city
- Where a golfer begins
- Attendant
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- Benedictine monk
- Not turbulent
- Car mechanics group
- Buffer used in chemistry
- Fall heavily
- Pie \_\_ mode
- The Brits love it
- Children's TV channel (abbr.)
- Jacksonville footballer
- Helps little firms
- \_\_ and behold
- A way to resemble
- Fingers
- Excessive indulgences
- You might be an "empty" one
- "How the West Was Won" writer
- European river
- They begin the alphabet
- The body's messenger

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



Mayor and Council are pictured celebrating ecoCaledon's milestone anniversary with their team.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

# ecoCaledon celebrates 30 years of advocacy and education

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

ecoCaledon, a nonprofit organization championing climate action in the Town of Caledon, is looking back on 30 years of work.

From rain barrels, to battery recycling programs, and years of education and advocacy, they've been working tirelessly to empower their community to take action for a greener Caledon.

Some of its members have been advocating since the very beginning.

A Caledon resident since 1985, Jim Cassell has seen ecoCaledon from its very beginnings.

Back in 1992, Cassell first rose to environmental advocacy when the Interim Waste Authority was established under the Waste Management Act of 1992.

Cassell and his brother-in-law created the group Don't Assault Rural Environments (DARE); this team, Cassell regards, is what fought the Interim Waste Authority through till 1994.

With the return of responsibility for waste management to municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area in 1995, problems continued to rise, and Cassell and the group formed "Citizens for a Clean Caledon."

This group would later become known as ecoCaledon.

Citizens for a Clean Caledon started out as education first, attending events such as Caledon Day to educate citizens on the three R's—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Over time, they began to "bolt on," as Cassell says, to different projects.

"We had the first ever Canadian battery recycling program at a grassroots level, and we did that until the government finally kicked in and was sponsoring battery recycling," says Cassell.

They also worked to advocate for restrict-

ing the non-essential use of pesticides.

One of their very first programs, their rain barrel program, which Cassell still chairs, is one they still run to this day.

Although their program has changed over the years, it still carries on, and residents can find ecoCaledon's rain barrels at Davis Feed and Farm Supply in Caledon East.

Over the years, Citizens for a Clean Caledon became ecoCaledon, of which Cassell remains a member, wearing different hats such as serving as Chair, and also Treasurer for several years.

"We've been busy since 1995," says Cassell, "trying to educate and do social change within the environment."

"We were on the forefront of an awful lot of change within the environmental group within Caledon and Ontario," says Cassell, looking back on the work they've been able to achieve over the last three decades.

Cassell has been able to see the evolution of the group over the years, "it certainly had its humble beginnings," he recalls.

At the beginning, he says they were project-oriented while also focusing on education.

"We started as education and we bolted on what was needed for the community," says Cassell.

As new members have come in, they've been able to move in different directions and introduce new projects.

"It's the ability for the community group to adapt to the needs of the people today," he says about today's organization.

"I just try to be as much of an environmentalist as I can," says Cassell.

Looking back on the organization over the years, and his involvement, he says he treasures the successes.

"There were successes with what we had done, that we may not have been the only people moving towards that, but it definitely in Caledon, we were at the forefront of doing

those things," he says.

A lot of what they've been able to achieve, he says, the community has also pushed for, such as their battery program and the restriction on non-essential pesticides.

"30 years, you think back it doesn't seem

that it was that long ago. There's no hardships, but it was good that we got involved and did something," says Cassell. "We're an action-oriented team of individuals that are trying to look after their community and beyond."

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## Join Credit Valley Conservation at the Pits to Parks Open House

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) invites the community to attend the Pits to Parks Open House on May 7, 2026. This event is an opportunity to meet with CVC staff, learn more about this important restoration project and provide your feedback. Drop-in anytime between 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Alton Legion, 1267 Queen St. W., Alton.

"We're planning to ecologically restore Pinchin Pit, a former aggregate site in Caledon," said Jesse de Jager, director of parks, lands and community engagement at CVC. "Our goal is to transform this site into a future conservation area and we're sharing conceptual plans with residents." CVC is advancing the ecological restoration of Pinchin Pit, with a vision to transform the

61-hectare site into a natural area that supports new forest, grassland and wetland habitats and nature-based recreational opportunities for the community. As part of this work, CVC will be sharing a conceptual design for Pinchin Pit to illustrate the proposed restoration approach and to gather input.

Building on the success of the Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation Area project, the Pits to Parks Restoration Project is anticipated to be a multi-year process involving the beneficial reuse of clean excess soil. CVC is committed to engaging with the community at key milestones throughout project planning, design and implementation.

Learn more about the event and register at: [cvc.ca/PitsToParksOpenHouse](http://cvc.ca/PitsToParksOpenHouse).

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# Youth isn't wasted on the young

It's often said that youth is wasted on the young.

Nobody knows for sure exactly who coined the phrase. Variations of it are attributed to such writers and wits as George Bernard Shaw and Oscar Wilde, but as far as my research – and that of others – can tell, there is no agreed upon first instance of it hitting our public consciousness.

“Youth is the most beautiful thing in this world – and what a pity that it has to be wasted on children!” is one oh-so-close comment attributed to Shaw.

If the adage can indeed be attributed to Shaw, evidently it took hold as it seems the quote was inextricably considered part of his long list of linguistic contributions while he was still active, writing, and coming up with more turns of phrase that continue to turn heads.

But, as far as phrases go, does it really hold water?

People of my own generation might have a unique perspective on the matter.

I was born in 1985, and there seems to be a disagreement on whether that puts me in the company of Generation X or the Millennials. Some sources define Gen X as pertaining to those born between 1965 and 1980, immediately following the Baby Boomer generation. Others define it as people born between 1976 and 1985, while Millennial area is variously plotted as 1981 – 1996, or more narrowly 1990 – 1998.

In hindsight, not only were us 1985 babies in-betweeners, perhaps being able to navigate our way around some of the more negative perceptions of each bookending generations of Gen Z and Millennial, but we were – and, one supposes, are – subject to constantly moving goal posts on just what constitutes “youth.”

Not too long ago, “youth” pertained to anyone 18-and-under, with some variations depending on your geographic location widening the window to 19-and-under and 21-and-under. Shortly thereafter after, “youth” was extended to those 25-and-under, with tributes to, for instance, Top 25 Under 25 lists in your field of choice coming into the fore.

I thought we'd topped out at 25 for a few years until I went on a mission to secure a ticket to a very important event in Ottawa about 15 years ago and was astonished that their cut-off for “youth” tickets reached all the way to the thirtysomethings. An apparently arbitrary thirty-one, to be exact. I thought that was kind of a stretch, personally, but being 26-ish at the time, I wasn't going to argue with a \$40 discount. When a similar event took place last year, I was surprised the youth cut-off had been extended to a whopping 37.

Overshooting that goal post by a year-and-a-half may or may not have sparked a minor existential crisis in me, but I was buoyed a resurgence in Top 40 Under 40 events – not so much now in my forty-first year, but I'm sure the goal posts will be moved again, potentially by those who insist that fifty is the new forty – usually those who have crossed the half-century mark.

Regardless of how it's defined, National Youth Week starts on Friday and I'm glad to see that many of our communities have stepped up with programs designed to engage and inspire youth while keeping them active and creative at the same time.

In Aurora, for instance, which defines “youth” as far as programming is concerned

as between the ages of 12 and 17, is hitting the ground running, opening the week with a flag raising ceremony and live music into the evening, followed by six days of events ranging from sports drop-ins and craft activities.

In fact, the celebration of youth is not limited to Youth Week itself.

The party will be extended through May 13 with the Town's annual Youth Innovation Fair, always a favourite event to attend, as students from across York Region converge on the community with ideas simple and elaborate to improve our future in some way.

In Caledon, regular youth programs will continue as usual during Youth Week with drop-in games, activities and more at both Southfields Community Centre and the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness.

There is certainly no shortage of things to do, but I can't help but think there is a missed opportunity in here somewhere.

The start of Youth Week 2026 coincides with the first day residents looking for the chance to represent their communities at the municipal level, whether they're seeking the top job of Mayor, any number of Council positions, and even education trustee roles.

What a golden opportunity to encourage youth to get involved with their communities at the civic level, learn about what each position means and, if they meet the age requirements, consider putting themselves forward for contention.

As the Youth Innovation Fair reminds us each year, younger citizens have no shortage of ideas on how to improve the world in which we all live and, by the very existence of these ideas, they prove time and time again that they have their fingers on the pulse on the issues that matter to them and their peers – which are, more often than not, the same issues that matter to the community as a whole.

Yet, rare are the times when people who might fall under the myriad definitions of youth offered above feel encouraged to step forward and bring their ideas to a wider arena, and some might even be actively discouraged due to some vague idea that certain life experiences need to be had before they even consider trying to bring their voice to the proverbial table.

Councils should ideally reflect the community they serve and that includes all eligible voices 18 and above, and the voices of youth, middle-agers and seniors, are all relevant and due consideration.

It might be simply a matter of encouragement.

To all those considering putting their names forward for the first time this week through the close of municipal candidate registration in August, congratulations! You're making a bold step. You see a place where you can have impact, make a difference, and represent your neighbours. Politics is not for the faint-hearted, particularly in this extremely polarized and often (sadly) combative political environment we're unfortunately enduring at the moment.

To go the distance, you'll need the courage of your convictions and a certain thickness of skin, if you haven't developed that already – those factors will serve you well.

But, above all, it takes courage and compassion not only to identify where things can be improved or further, but put yourselves up front to help foster a better future.

Kudos to all of you, and make sure there's space at the table.

**CARNEY: "IF YOU HAVE A BIT OF EXTRA MONEY, WE'LL MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU TO INVEST..."**



# Struggling to always do our best

by Mark Pavilons



Have you tried your best today?

Albeit a bit cliché, this saying stands the test of time.

If we get up every morning and try to give 100%, or even 80%, that's something. It shows we're committed to, well, something, anything.

What really is your best? I believe it all depends on the individual. We must be realistic in the goals we set and we need to know our limits. It's an exercise of sorts, working our “talent muscles” so they can spring into action without even being called upon.

Johnny Reid urged us to: “... keeping grounded and not really getting above yourself and always trying your best to be yourself.”

Some days, our best may be amazing, while others quite modest. They say the key is consistency and just “showing up.”

In this hectic, stressful society, it's not easy to welcome each new day with the awesome wonder of a child. It can be a chore just to make it out the door.

If you're struggling, mentally or physically, the task sometimes becomes insurmountable. But that's okay, too. We're not perfect, not by a long shot. Heck, I don't even know what perfection is.

Very few jobs are solo efforts. Most often, it takes a team of dedicated individuals to make things happen both at home and at work.

As such our family and team members feed off us, and how we approach tasks sets the tone for how others will approach it.

Generally speaking, I think people are task-oriented – we thrive on doing something. Give us a problem and we'll try to solve it. Hand us a wrench and we'll turn it.

I think that's linked to our own self-esteem and sense of accomplishment. As “pack animals,” our ancestors, in order to stand out from the rest of the Neanderthals, had to rise to the occasion, take on each challenge and do it with gusto. So, our survival of the fittest instinct has led us to the survival of the best widget-maker, retailer or story writer.

People also like to take pride in their work. Just ask any creative type – artists, actors, plumbers, blacksmiths, carpenters and computer programmers.

When you do give your best and you “nail it,” your chest puffs out, you stand back to take it all in, and smile to yourself.

“The desire to reach for the sky runs deep in our human psyche,” according to Cesar Pelli.

It's natural for us to seek progress and self-betterment. We like to push ourselves.

Motivation is a big factor, and I wonder just how far we've come from Pavlov's doggy treat concept. Our motivations can be quite selfish, even greedy. We are passionate beings, but we are also susceptible to those deadly sins.

Psychologists believe the desire to be better than others can spring from factors like social comparison, competition, and the desire for fame

or status. Seeking improvement with the goal of benefiting humanity reflects a more altruistic and collective mind set, focusing on contributing to the greater good.

Our education system has always been the cornerstone of measuring student achievement. Sure, there's always pressure to achieve those high marks and we've learned over the years that current instruction isn't gender-neutral. Grades, report cards, attendance, are all being reviewed by Ontario's Education Ministry to address shortcomings in the system.

Neuroscience suggests that the act of seeking itself, rather than achieving the end goal, is intrinsically motivating and leads to satisfaction. Dopamine, a neurotransmitter, present in all mammals, is linked to reward and pleasure.

But the big nut we have to crack is selfishness or self-interest? That's the question and modern-day dilemma

A team of scientists approached the question of what guides altruism from the perspective of motivation. The team, including Kyle Law, a postdoctoral researcher at Arizona State University, and Ph.D. student Seoyeon Bae from Boston College, studied anonymous survey responses from almost 1 million individuals spread over more than 100 countries. They found that the vast majority reported performing acts of altruism because they were interested in the well-being of others, not because these acts benefitted them indirectly.

“People are more likely to want to be remembered for making a difference, helping others, and improving the world,” says Bae, “and to value things like caring over status or personal gains.”

People are more likely to value things like caring over status or personal gains. Think about that.

That's true evolution. When in history has that ever been the case?

I do believe most of us are, deep down, good, decent human beings.

We're born that way. It's only through trials, tribulations and tragedies that our “goodness” is somewhat kneaded out of us.

But – and this is a big one – if we look around the world today, millions of people, countries, governments, dictatorships and yes, criminals, are at their peak performance levels, too. They seem to have taken the “self-betterment” idea to a whole new level of self-centred greed. So, perhaps we're not motivated by altruistic intentions after all.

I imagine the survey wasn't given to the thieves, violent criminals and scammers in our society.

Yes, there are heartless souls in our midst, and more and more are trying to find new, innovative ways to steal from us.

Instead of trying their best, these selfish jerks put personal gain above all.

I would point a prophetic finger at all of them if I could.

It's a shame that most of us average folks get out of bed in the morning with the intention of doing good or making difference.

Maybe we need to put that into everyone's first sip of morning coffee.

Perhaps we need to do our best when it comes to selfless acts of kindness, spreading joy and just being there for one another.

Again, have you done your best today?

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## What a week!

If ever anyone picked the wrong week to be away it was me. This past week has been an absolute whirlwind of activity for Caledon - and the province - with protests, major Council activity, an FOI law passed practically in the dead of night and all culminating with our very own Mayor's resignation! What a week, and I missed it all. Sad though I am, rest assured it won't stop me from commenting, and maybe asking some of the same questions currently running through your mind too.

Democratic principles continue to be at risk and we have a responsibility to hold our elected officials to account lest we become increasingly like our neighbours to the south. Last I heard, elected officials are elected to act on behalf, and in the best interests, of us taxpayers. In doing so they have many responsibilities including: fiscal, environmental, social services and more. Perhaps most importantly, however, they have a moral responsibility. I interpret this to mean they uphold and obey the rule of law, they do the right thing when confronted with questionable activity, and they put health, safety and the environment before developer interests. In other words, community first, last and always.

Instead, what seems to be happening both in Town and at the provincial level is anything but.

As referenced, our Premier (and our MPP who voted along party lines) rammed through anti Freedom of Information legislation without debate and which allows the Premier to retroactively refuse to release any records as far back as 1988. This, despite being repeatedly ordered by the courts to do so. To misquote Shakespeare, "methinks he doth protest too much," which (as is still the case today) in his era, was code for "he's clearly got something to hide." Greenbelt dealings? Developer promises? Highway 413 shenanigans? Conservation authority chaos? So many questions including this final one: a number of conservative MPPs DIDN'T show up for the vote, at least five of whom are cabinet ministers. Of those five, two

have direct control and influence over conservation issues currently impacted by Bill 97 which could profoundly impact Caledon. Should we be concerned? Things that make me say "hmm?"

Meanwhile, back at Caledon Council last Tuesday, April 21, the agenda for both the Planning and Development and Council meetings were jam packed! Just some of the items on the table for discussion were: a motion from Councillor Kiernan with respect to the controversial Site Alteration ByLaw, a motion from Councillor Sheen on Bill 100 (the one that concentrates yet more power into fewer hands by allowing Premier Ford to appoint Regional Chairs), and one by Councillor Early concerning an amendment to the noise and vibrations bylaw which attempts to address, "Expanding the scope of the by-law to prohibit nuisances and vibrations likely to disturb inhabitants 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, rather than only during designated nighttime hours."

One might argue this one is as important, perhaps even more so, than the others as we uneasily await the outcome of a proposed blasting quarry decision and deal with all of those illegal truck yards and event spaces too.

Actually, they're all important. Back to the controversial Site Alteration By-law, which many of us first learned about last year during the Caledon Swan Lake debacle. There are so many things to be concerned about. Did Caledon commit to changing this bylaw as part of the deliverables the federal government asked for under the Housing Accelerator Fund, simply in order to get funding, despite potential health and safety risks to Caledon residents? What about residents who rely on groundwater/wells for their drinking water who are concerned the proposed bylaw removes the "cap on fill," meaning large scale commercial fill, of questionable quality, could be dumped en masse on our collective doorstep. Many residents, and organizations like Democracy Caledon, are questioning who wants this new site alteration bylaw in the first place when

so many in our community have raised significant concerns about its potential impacts? Are they developers? Trucking companies who will be hauling it? Because it sure doesn't seem to be Caledon residents asking for it. The vote on the motion saw a rare, and a reasonable share of cooperation amongst the Council which was heartening. Please note, the Town's "Have Your Say" portal on this topic is still open and your feedback is urgently needed - so please - GO HAVE YOUR SAY!

It's further notable that on the Bill 100 issue Council achieved an equally rare, and almost unanimous vote on an issue. Councillor Sheen expressed that having a Ministry-appointed chair above municipal governance impacts our local voice and potentially eliminates local debate. You know, putting democracy at risk. It seems all Councillors agreed that "no one in Town is asking for less of a voice at the table," and voted in favour of his motion. Except that is, Mayor Annette Groves. Which begs the question - why?

Speaking of the Mayor, I have two final thoughts on this whirlwind of a week. Why, oh why would the Mayor of Caledon, a Town known for its beautiful event spaces and gorgeous surrounding lands, host her annual Mayor's Gala at the cavernous and industrial looking International Centre in Mississauga? So much for "supporting local." There's probably a lot more to say on the gala itself, including how much money was actually raised and distributed to local charities and/or organizations? These are topics for another day, perhaps after (or if) the financials are released. For now, we'll end instead with the biggest surprise of all - or was it? Mayor Groves announced her retirement, releasing information via a post on social media at 9 p.m. on the night of her gala, presumably so all of us without invitations could learn the news at the same time.

What's next for the Mayor? Stay tuned, I guess. What a week!

# Caledon opts out of new public drinking permit framework

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

In March of 2026, the Ontario government announced their expansion to "bring-your-own" (formerly tailgate) event permits for municipally designated cultural or community outdoor public events.

This expansion would allow individuals 19 years of age and older to bring alcohol to events holding a "bring-your-own" event permit, such as street markets, craft fairs, and more.

Municipalities will have to pass bylaws allowing people to drink in public if they do not already, and establish a process for events that qualify under the new rules if they so wish.

The Town of Caledon Staff recommended the Town not pursue this option.

In a memorandum posted to the April 28th Council meeting agenda, it stated that "the Town of Caledon does not currently have an enacted by-law governing the use of alcohol in public and, as such, will be unable to issue 'tailgate' or 'bring-your-own' event permits."

"While the province has outlined the intended benefits of this initiative, staff do not recommend enacting such a by-law due to concerns about enforcement and community safety, as well as implications for alcohol sales at events within the Town of Caledon that support local breweries and cideries."

At the Council meeting, staff stated they do not recommend that any by-law be brought forward to permit the public consumption of alcohol necessary to enable the Town to issue these licenses.

If an application for a "tailgate" or "bring-your-own" event permit is received by the Town of Caledon, it will be brought forward for Council's consideration.

It was also said that if Council find it "desirable" to provide for "tailgate" or "bring-your-own" event permits, staff may be directed to prepare the by-law to allow the use of alcohol in public, as well as any changes to the Town's existing liquor licensing framework that might be necessary procedurally for designations moving forward.

Council voiced concerns about the overall enforcement of this new change from the government, and if it would now be perceived that "Tailgate" or "Bring-Your-Own" is the new standard.

Staff agreed that this is a concern, and even bringing this memorandum forward would hopefully bring clarity to the situation.

Until Council directs otherwise in the future, "bring-your-own" event permits at public events will remain off the table in Caledon.

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# ARTS & CULTURE

## Mayfield students fight to keep Repertoire courses from budget cuts

Continued from FRONT

Due to cuts from the school board to staffing, both students and teachers were informed three of the four repertoire courses currently offered would be cut and no longer run.

These courses have been running for decades, with Mayfield's jazz repertoire courses since the early 1990s, and ensembles for almost 40 years.

Now, the students are coming together to show how much they need – and love – these programs.

Sebastian Beffort, a Grade 11 Mayfield student, explains that since they were told, they've organized 200-person group chats, created various social media accounts, and started a petition to highlight the importance of these courses.

He says their aim is to convince their administration to take cuts to other courses at the school.

"Music is always first on the chopping block," says Beffort.

"If we can organize it along a small scale and get them to reinstate a few of the courses, maybe half of the courses, and have them cut another new course next year, that would be ideal," he says.

Now, they're hoping to gain enough attention and support to carry weight when they appear before the administration.

"It's rooted in the school's history, and well-being and the mental health of people," he says, reflecting on the courses. "Along with that, it's one of the top-performing music schools in Ontario, as a high school."

Their ensembles/courses, such as Magnetics and Blues Alley, are award-winning; Magnetics, back in 2023, won the CBC 2023 Canadian Music Class Challenge.

With more than 200 students currently in the program, Beffort says they're all extremely dedicated to saving their courses.

"Everybody deserves to have the chance to prove themselves through something that



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAVE MAYFIELD REPERTOIRE

they are passionate about. Taking away these courses takes away the possibility for some to pursue what they love most. From the day I auditioned at this incredible school I have grown immensely and consistently. It is a tragedy that due to cuts going into education some may not be able to chase what they love," says Beffort.

He's certainly not the only one who feels this way; in testimonials sent to the Citizen, students expressed their love and concern for the cuts to these courses.

Megan Meta, Grade 12 Regional Arts Program Vocal student, says that Mayfield's Music Program has shaped not just the musician, but the person she is today.

"It has shown me that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible. The music program doesn't only teach you music, but teaches you skills that can be applied in all areas of study and life. And because of how passionate Mayfield Music's students and educators are about music education, this year

we have one of the highest number of the program's graduates going to pursue music in postsecondary, myself included," she says.

Various students share similar stories about how ensembles and courses such as Blues Alley have shaped their musical journey.

Mayfield's senior repertoire class band, Blues Alley, is one of the courses currently set to be cut from the program.

"During my first year at Mayfield I spent my time practicing and preparing for the day I would get to Blues Alley. I worked through many ensembles until I had finally reached my goal, and the achievement will always be a huge step in my music career," says Beffort.

Grade 11 student Joshua Erskine says that once, as a Grade 9 student, they got to hear Blues Alley perform at Mayfield's Strawberry Jazz Festival.

"Ever since this moment, I had a goal to one day be a part of Blues Alley," says Erskine.


Grade 10 student Sarah Tadesse says she

looks forward to lunch every day, knowing she gets to learn and rehearse with musicians in Blues Alley.

"These ensembles aren't just courses, they're a community where everyone learns, grows, and feels supported. Through Mayfield's repertoire courses, I've developed skills like communication, collaboration, patience, time management, and so much more, which I apply in many aspects of my everyday life. But more importantly, it's given me, and many others, a place where we belong. Taking away these programs doesn't just remove courses, it takes away opportunities, connections, and a meaningful part of students' lives," says Tadesse.


The goal of the Mayfield Repertoire Project is to bring as much attention to this issue as possible, and they hope to encourage others to sign their petition to raise awareness.

They currently have accumulated over 5,000 signatures.




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Mother's Day A CELEBRATION HONOURING MOM



# Inspirational gifts for Mother's Day

Mother's Day is devoted to expressing love and showering praise on mothers, step-mothers and any other figure in one's life who has taken on a motherly role.

It is customary to lavish extra praise on moms come Mother's Day, and that often involves gift-giving. The following are five gifts that can ensure Mom knows her efforts and unconditional love have not gone unnoticed.

relate the phrase to rough patches in life, but it also can refer to cherishing all the moments that are fleeting. The book offers many inspirational passages and lessons that can be applied to all aspects of life. It can be a touching gift for a mom, grandmother or another special woman. Available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and at [www.nataliefrisciapancetti.com](http://www.nataliefrisciapancetti.com).

**1. Prompt mindful thinking:**

The cards from Sunny Present Empowering Questions Cards pose questions to prompt meditation, journaling or simply to practice mindfulness during the day. They are a great way to encourage positive self-talk. Each of the 52 cards feature a door in the Estonian city of Tallinn. Available through Amazon and [www.sunnypresent.com](http://www.sunnypresent.com).

**1. Relaxing home spa experience:**

Many people have turned their bathrooms into home spas, particularly empty nesters who now have more time to relax and pamper themselves. Spending time in a relaxing shower is a way for Mom to clear her mind and unwind, and Shower Steamers from Body Restore can set the ideal environment. Purchase on Amazon and include alongside additional home spa necessities like loofahs or a bathrobe.

**2. Motivational car-do candles:**

A little aromatherapy can treat any mother to an uplifting or relaxing fragrance in her special place in the home. But these inspirational candles from Bianchi Candle Co. feature names like "bravery," "joy" and "gratitude" and a motivational message. Purchase at [bianchicandleco.com](http://bianchicandleco.com).

**5. Ancestry exploration:**

Foster greater bonds in the family by giving Mom an opportunity to further trace her heritage. Popular genealogy companies include Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com and 23andme.com, enabling anyone to enjoy a look back at the lineage that helped shape who they are today. These companies can help trace ancestors and even connect people with distant relatives.

**3. Inspirational coffee table book:**

Author and educator Natalie Friscia Pancetti wrote, "This Too... Life-Isms to Savor the Sweetness of Life and Calm You Through the Storms" to pay homage to her parents, particularly her father, who was fond of the phrase, "this too shall pass." Pancetti says people often

Mother's Day gifting can revolve around inspirational and heartfelt gifts that show special mothers how much they are appreciated.

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Mother's Day A CELEBRATION HONOURING MOM



DAY TRIPS MAKE

Mother's DAY special

Mother's Day 2026 will be celebrated across the United States, Canada, Australia, and many other countries on Sunday, May 10. Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May, and has been since 1914, when President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation establishing the day as a national holiday.

There are plenty of ways to celebrate mothers, grandmothers, and stepmothers, including with gifts and celebrations. However, gift givers also may want to trade wrapped presents for a shared experience. Consider day trips or overnight excursions as options for treating Mom to something special. Here are some day trips that can make lasting memories.

WINE COUNTRY

For moms who love wine, a visit to a nearby vineyard is an elegant way to celebrate. However, there's also the option to travel to historically popular and well-regarded wine regions, such as Napa Valley, Sonoma County or Willamette Valley in the western United States. An even more epic adventure can be a trip to key regions in Europe like Bordeaux, France, Tuscany, Italy, or Rioja, Spain.

HISTORIC SITES

Moms who are history buffs can travel to areas of the country that are known for their historical significance. Boston, with its hop-on-hop-off trolley tours, provides an up-close look at sites that shaped

the American Revolution. Williamsburg, Virginia, and nearby Jamestown also offer a historical touch. Colonial Williamsburg is a living-history museum where actors in period costume depict daily Colonial life. At Jamestown, walk in the steps of Captain John Smith and Pocahontas and explore a unique locale in American history.

PEACE IN NATURE

Some mothers find that nature is their happy place. A garden tour or a visit to the nearest botanical garden is a great choice. Many beautiful flowers peak in early May, including late tulips, lilacs and azaleas. Roses also may start budding around this time. Butchart Gardens in Canada is a 55-acre National Historic Site known for its Sunken Garden, and can be a lovely spot to tour. Another option is the Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, which boasts formal gardens, meadows and large indoor conservatories.

COASTAL ESCAPE

When treating Mom to some "vitamin sea," a day trip to the coast cannot be beat. A walk on the sand certainly can be a winning choice, but activities like a Mother's Day brunch cruise on a riverboat or ferry can elevate the excursion.

Letting mom experience different day trips can be a special way to set this Mother's Day apart.

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Mother's Day A CELEBRATION HONOURING MOM

This recipe makes for  a great breakfast in bed



There may be no better way to start Mother's Day than serving Mom some breakfast in bed. A homemade meal before Mom even gets out of bed can set the right tone for a day that celebrates all mothers have done and continue to do for their children.

**MIXED BERRY FRENCH TOAST**

Makes 8 servings

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 6 large eggs
- 1 3/4 cups fat-free milk
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 loaf (1 pound) French bread, cubed
- 1 package (12 ounces) frozen unsweetened mixed berries
- 2 tablespoons cold butter
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- Confectioners' sugar and maple syrup (optional)

Whisk together the first 6 ingredients. Place bread cubes in a 13 x 9-inch or 3-quart baking dish coated with cooking spray. Pour egg mixture over top. Refrigerate, covered, 8 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Remove berries from freezer and French toast from refrigerator and let stand while oven heats. Bake French toast, covered, 30 minutes.

In a small bowl, cut butter into brown sugar until crumbly. Top French toast with berries; sprinkle with brown sugar mixture. Bake, uncovered, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, 15 to 20 minutes. If desired, dust with confectioners' sugar and serve with syrup.

# BUSINESS



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## Caledon holds public meeting on Aggregates Policy updates

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A public meeting was recently held at Town Hall to present updates to the Town of Caledon's aggregate policy.

On February 24, Town Council approved a motion directing Staff to review the Province's modifications to Official Plan Amendment 1 (OPA 1) and put forward a new Official Plan Amendment that includes "relevant and pertinent policies that were altered or removed from OPA."

This motion came forward as the Town's attempt to respond to the Province's modifications to Caledon's Official Plan Amendment No. 1 (OPA 1), when it was passed in January with no right of appeal.

In October of 2024, the Town completed the Supplementary Aggregate Resources Policy, which

concluded with Council's adoption of OPA1 to "incorporate mineral aggregate policies into the adopted Future Caledon Official Plan," and with it was the passage of a related Zoning By-law Amendment to implement the new policies.

It was approved by the province with numerous modifications.

Staff shared the modifications ranged from administrative matters, such as references and definitions, to changes in policy interpretation related to the environmental policy framework.

The intent of the report, as presented by Staff, is not to bring back all deleted and modified content from the province in OPA 1, but instead "assess which removed or adjusted elements are still applicable, justifi-

able, and relevant to Caledon's context."

It was stated the Town must work within the Provincial context and cannot overstep Provincial standards.

The previous Zoning By-law Amendment will also be repealed and replaced.

Many of the provincial modifications were proposed to remain, such as modifications to limit the application of Town policies in Niagara Escarpment Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan areas, certain terminology changes, and the removal of blasting and air quality policies that speak to how studies should be conducted, and instead, referencing the Aggregate Guidance Manual.

With OPA 1, staff carried over aggregate policies from OPA 161, with modifications.

During the presentation, it was shared that in the Provincial modifications, the Province stated that "the new OPA is a policy framework that strays from the originally-approved set of policies in OPA 161."

Also, that "to attempt to add in the balance of the Greenbelt Plan policies to OPA 1 would further change the policy framework." As such, the Province deleted many policies linked to OPA 161, instead inserting/defaulting to Greenbelt Plan policies.

This OPA will bring forward previous OPA 161 policies, with updated, precise analysis to demonstrate conformity with the Greenbelt Plan, covering issues such as where aggregate operations are permitted and prohibited, and environmental protection and development policies specific to a number of features, which were said to be different and more protective of the features through OPA 161 than in the baseline greenbelt plan itself.

It also covers policies for progressive re-

habilitation.

Also drafted for inclusion is the "Area of Influence" policy, which sets study boundaries.

The provincial expectation for an area of influence is 500m; the Town of Caledon will be asking for a larger area of 1000m around the extraction limit.

When it comes to existing operations, the proposed policy that is recommended to be restored is to apply contemporary standards across all operations, including bringing legacy sites into better policy with modern policy and regulatory standards at any opportunity; as well as facilitate the improvement of the environmental and operational performance of mineral aggregate extraction.

Staff added the provincial concern is that this applies to existing operations, and that this policy states that, if a change is proposed on existing sites, the Town is looking to apply, bring forward, and improve the performance of those operations, if possible.

Staff have already received numerous submissions regarding the draft and will review them, along with any additional submissions, as they plan to finalize the document.

Following the public meeting, the draft Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment will be updated and finalized after taking in feedback from Council and the public, as well as through any final research and analysis undertaken.

Members of the public attended the meeting that evening and voiced their concerns about fill operations, farmland, and other environmental impacts.

David Sylvester, with Forks of the Credit Preservation Group, was a delegate to the meeting, stating he was there "on behalf of

the people to advocate for aggregate policies that truly protect the environment and health and welfare of our residents."

Their group advocated that evening for the adoption of policies, including an Air Quality Standard based on World Health Organization research and a clarification of the definitions of woodlands and wetlands in a local context.

Sylvester said that what they are advocating is good planning, while advancing the public interest.

"It's important that your decision reflects the public interest, and I can assure you, this is what the people want," he added.

Staff responded to questions from the committee that, while it is doable to adopt the policy and zoning changes they would like to see, that type of language was initially struck out by the province in OPA1.

"If what the public wants is change with how the overall provincial framework is administered, your quarrel is not at Caledon Town Council, is it at the province," said Lead Planner Joe Nethery.

Nethery said the incorporation of the Town of Caledon cannot alter or change those provincial standards, provincial framework, or provincial legislation.

Members of the public continued to raise their concerns, also stating that it is the Town's role to push back against these changes.

The final instruments are targeted to be presented to the Planning and Development Committee for adoption and passing in June 2026, and the project website will continue to be updated to ensure the information prepared is available for public review and comment.

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## JOHN WALKINSHAW

### Local realtor provides expertise to national real estate conference

In the real estate industry, the more you know, the better you can serve your clients and help them achieve their goals.

Local realtor, John Walkinshaw, who along with daughters Carley and Laura are the Walkinshaw Partners with eXp Realty Canada in Shelburne, attended the eXpCon real estate conference held at the Marriott hotel in Vancouver, B.C. on Apr. 20 to 22, where John was asked to share his expertise in the industry with 700 eXp real estate agents from across the country and the US.

An experienced and knowledgeable real estate agent, John credits eXp Realty as a company that has a culture of sharing information with its realtors that helps everyone become better at their job and produce the best results for clients.

"eXp, like no other real estate company, has such collaboration where agents are willing to share their secrets about what makes them successful with everyone in the company, so the company itself becomes more successful," John explained.

As a company, eXp Realty is worldwide with over 80,000 real estate agents serving their communities.

John was a key speaker at last year's national conference, and after a successful presentation, he was asked to return for the 2026 conference and bring his depth of knowledge of the real industry to this year's event.

The conference featured seminars delivered by experts as well as smaller gatherings where knowledge was shared between real estate agents eager to learn more about the industry and how they can be more successful at their jobs.

The smaller gatherings focused on more specific areas of the industry.

At this year's conference, John spoke about how to properly set the price for a property and when it is appropriate to adjust the price for a sale. He also spoke about the importance of communication with a client.

"I spoke on how to price a property and when it is appropriate to reduce the price and everything related to that," John explained. "Also important is the communication required to make sure you communicate with your client through the entire process of having a listing."

John understands that buying or selling a home can be a very daunting and stressful time, and he works with clients to make the process as easy as possible.

"It can be a very stressful experience for buyers and sellers," John explained. "We need to make sure we are communicating and making sure they know is happening next, or what could happen next so the situation is less stressful."

John was in the top 20 eXp realtors in the company and number one in Ontario for residential sales.

After his presentation at the conference, there was a question period where those in attendance could ask for advice or learn more about the industry and benefit from John's knowledge of how the real estate industry works.

"The conference proved to be a real success," John said. "Everyone was going home feeling like they are better equipped to serve the customers they are dealing with."

In the local real estate market, John said the spring season is robust with an increase in local properties being placed on the market. Trends are pointing to a two to three percent growth in sale prices for this year.

John Walkinshaw is the local real estate agent who has the experience, knowledge, and expertise to provide clients with a positive experience when buying or selling their home. He has earned the trust of residents in the region for his professionalism and ability to get their homes sold for a fair and equitable price.

You can learn more by visiting the Walkinshaw Partners website at [www.johnwalkinshaw.com](http://www.johnwalkinshaw.com), or by calling John at 519-942-7413, or Carley at 519-278-5149.

Written by Brian Lockhart



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# A guide to buying your first home

Buying a home is one of the most significant financial commitments a person can make.

Individuals may wonder when is the right time to jump in to the real estate market. The answer may boil down to affordability.

The housing market is continually evolving. Buying a home now is a little bit different than it was even a few years ago, as inventory is starting to recover from a lengthy period with limited offerings, according to Realtor.com. But even though inventory may have increased, home prices have not come down. The median home price now sits at around \$410,000 in the United States and approximately \$676,335 in Canada, and interests rates hover around 6 percent for a 30-year fixed rate.

Before it's time to sign a contract and get the keys, potential buyers can follow this guide as they navigate buying a home for the first time.

#### KNOW YOUR BUYING POWER

Before browsing home listings, buyers should conduct a financial audit to see how they stack up. It's

worthwhile to sit down with a mortgage broker who can run your numbers. Credit score is a significant variable that will be checked during such consultations. If necessary, identify ways to boost that score in the months before applying for a mortgage.

#### FOLLOW THE 30 PERCENT RULE

Rocket Mortgage says the 30 percent rule dictates that total monthly housing costs, including principal, interest, taxes, and insurance (PITI) should not exceed 30 percent of a borrower's gross monthly income to maintain financial stability.

#### BUDGET FOR THE EXTRA COSTS

Buyers should concern themselves with all of the costs that go into buying a home. In addition to the down payment, closing costs can come in at around 2 to 5 percent of the home's price. An inspection and

appraisal can run around \$1,000. Additional costs may include termite inspection, and other out-of-pocket costs to get the home up to code.

#### LOWER YOUR COSTS

A rising trend in home buying is a surge in down payment assistance (DPA). Bankrate says DPAs provide eligible individuals, typically first-time or low-to-moderate-income buyers, with assistance that covers costs like down payments and closing fees. These programs may be offered by the government, non-profits or private lenders.

#### UTILIZE A REPUTABLE INSPECTOR

A home may seem like a dream until a person pulls back the curtain on some hidden red flags. It's always worth the expense to have a housing inspector or a trusted contractor walk through the property prior to making

an offer to ensure that the home is in good condition.

#### CHOOSE A VALUE MARKET

First-time home buyers may want to select metro areas that offer the best balance of earnings versus home prices. According to a 2026 report from Realtor.com, areas that provide the best value in the U.S. are largely concentrated in the Northeast and Midwest. Hartford, CT; Rochester, NY; Worcester, MA; Toledo, OH; and Providence, RI, are some of the top housing markets for the year. Real estate experts at CalgaryHomes.ca found Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, and New Brunswick offer the best value for home buyers.

First-time home buyers must consider a range of variables as they inch closer to making their home ownership dreams a reality.



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**MARKET UPDATE**

# Is a sunroom right for you?

There is no denying the appeal of a sunroom. Sunrooms bring more of the outdoors inside by bridging the gap between home and yard.

**D**emand is shifting, with more than 61 percent of homeowners now preferring four-season insulated rooms for year-round use, according to Market Reports World. A sunroom has the potential to offer a roughly 50 percent return on investment and can cost anywhere from \$22,000 to \$72,000 on average.

A sunroom addition is a significant investment and a decision not to take lightly, as it changes both the interior floor plan and backyard space. To decide if a sunroom really is a worthwhile endeavor, it's important for homeowners to consider the footprint of their homes/yards, how they plan to use the space, and the amount of sun the home receives.

**HOME FOOTPRINT**

Professionals with the National Association of Realtors say that a sunroom should not consume more than 30 percent of the remaining backyard and urge homeowners to avoid over-developing a lot. If installing a sunroom will leave a homeowner with only a small patch of yard afterwards, the result can feel heavy and unbalanced. It also won't match the neighborhood. Another consideration is the local zoning ordinances where a person lives. The City of Los Angeles, for example, warns that most towns require a setback between the sunroom structure and the property line. It's also important to look at the home's roof and whether or not the sunroom will fall right under the eaves or if it will require an expensive tie-in to the existing roof.

**UTILITY**

It is vital that homeowners determine how they will use the space and when. This will dictate the type of sunroom that should be built. A three-season room is typically uninsulated with only single-pane glass. This is ideal if someone is looking for a screened-in retreat without all of the bugs and a little weather protection. Four-season rooms are fully insulated and tie into a home's HVAC system. This space will be functional all year long, but it is a more expensive undertaking as well.

**LIGHT EVALUATION**

The purpose of a sunroom is to benefit from the sun. The value of the space will depend entirely on which

way the room faces. North-facing sunrooms have soft light with minimal heat or glare that likely can be used all day. Morning people can appreciate an east-facing sunroom while drinking coffee or reading, and the space will cool down in the afternoon. South-facing rooms will be bright most of the day and may need high-end HVAC hookups or shades to stay comfortable, even in cooler months. West-facing sunrooms are great for watching sunsets, but the hot afternoon sun must be considered. UV-rated glass to prevent floor fading and even sunburn likely will be needed.

It is important to work with a company that specializes in sunrooms. Such firms are experienced in helping homeowners design and ultimately build these spaces to avoid common pitfalls, advises Champion, a window, sunroom and home exterior company.

In general, a sunroom is not a DIY project since it typically involves a major structural change. It can be a viable addition to a home when built correctly to remain durable through every season.



**Orangeville Statistics - March**

|                                 | March, 2026 | March, 2025 | % Change |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| # of Active Listings            | 120         | 102         | +1.35%   |
| # of Homes Listed               | 73          | 70          | +1.29%   |
| # of Sales                      | 28          | 30          | -2.11%   |
| List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio | 97%         | 98%         | -1.02%   |
| Average Days on Market          | 57          | 58          | -8.84%   |
| Average Sale Price (all types)  | \$747,307   | \$767,833   | -2.40%   |
| Detached                        | \$851,806   | \$867,417   | -1.82%   |
| Semi-Attached                   | \$534,835   | \$600,800   | -8.06%   |
| Freestanding Townhouses         | \$575,000   | \$713,333   | -8.27%   |

**Orangeville Statistics - Year to Date**

|                                 | Jan - March 2026 | Jan - March 2025 | % Change |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|
| # of Homes Listed               | 150              | 121              | +6.63%   |
| # of Sales                      | 55               | 67               | -56.63%  |
| List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio | 97%              | 98%              | -1.02%   |
| Average Days on Market          | 55               | 58               | 44.74%   |
| Average Sale Price              | \$751,783        | \$837,417        | 10.23%   |
| Detached                        | \$893,073        | \$917,007        | 10.73%   |
| Semi-Attached                   | \$583,108        | \$664,713        | 3.89%    |
| Freestanding Townhouses         | \$591,200        | \$707,815        | -2.61%   |

**Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market**

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Current Number of Homes for Sale | 120 |
| Divided by Sales per Month       | 28  |
| Months of Inventory              | 4.3 |

There is currently 4.3 months of inventory on the market in Orangeville. In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

**Peel - Caledon Statistics - March**

|                                 | March 2026  | March 2025  | % Change |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| # of Active Listings            | 355         | 187         | 75.14%   |
| # of Homes Listed               | 201         | 237         | -19.41%  |
| # of Sales                      | 41          | 57          | -26.84%  |
| List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio | 94%         | 96.5%       | -2.38%   |
| Average Days on Market          | 40          | 25          | 80.00%   |
| Average Sale Price              | \$1,359,362 | \$1,317,537 | 3.69%    |

**Peel - Caledon Statistics - Year to Date**

|                                 | Jan - March 2026 | Jan - March 2025 | % Change |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|
| # of Homes Listed               | 400              | 385              | -17.65%  |
| # of Sales                      | 144              | 134              | -12.20%  |
| List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio | 95%              | 95%              | 0.00%    |
| Average Days on Market          | 43               | 32               | 34.38%   |
| Average Sale Price              | \$1,599,506      | \$1,317,737      | -12.31%  |

**Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market**

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Current Number of Homes for Sale | 435 |
| Divided by Sales per Month       | 46  |
| Months of Inventory              | 6.6 |

There are currently 6.6 months of inventory on the market in Caledon. In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

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**FOR SALE** **7 ROSE ST, ORANGEVILLE** **\$965,000**

Stylish comfort and everyday convenience - this beautifully updated family home in one of Orangeville's most desirable west-end neighbourhoods features over 1,768 square feet of living space plus a finished basement. With 3+1 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms, this home is designed for both entertaining and family life.

**FOR SALE** **10 MCKITRICK DR, ORANGEVILLE** **\$979,900**

Set on a large lot in sought-after West-end Orangeville, this inviting & well maintained family home offers the perfect blend of space, comfort, and outdoor living. With 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a finished basement, there's room here for the whole family to grow and thrive.

**FOR SALE** **9 WELLINGTON ST, ORANGEVILLE** **\$1,499,900**

Historic charm meets modern luxury - this grand 1926 home offers 4,200+ sq ft with 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, and a self-contained 3-level apartment, perfect for extended family or income potential. Set on a deep, private lot just steps to Broadway, it's an exceptional opportunity in one of Orangeville's most prestigious locations.

**FOR SALE** **24 FAULKNER ST, ORANGEVILLE** **\$1,699,000**

Standing proudly since 1908, 24 Faulkner Street is Orangeville royalty! Blending timeless character with modern updates, this home is stunning inside and out, featuring 5 bedrooms, a stunning third-floor primary retreat, and over 2,300 sq ft of elegant living space, rich in history and original details.

**FOR SALE** **7 IRONWOOD CRT, MONO** **\$1,899,000**

Tucked away on a prestigious court in Purple Hill, this impressive home offers 3,389 sq ft of living space, including 3 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms, with a main-floor primary suite. It sits on a private 0.55-acre lot backing onto protected forest, just steps from Island Lake.



Contact me today for more details or to find out what your home is worth in today's market.

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# Did you know?

A well-manicured lawn appeals to homeowners when they look out their windows.

**BUT SUCH A VIEW** also can look nice when homeowners peruse their bank statements after selling a property. According to the "2023 Remodeling Impact Report: Outdoor Features" from the National Association of Realtors®, standard lawn care service yields an estimated cost recovery of 217 percent. Landscape maintenance, with an estimated cost recovery of 104 percent, and an overall landscape upgrade (100 percent) also yield great returns for homeowners. The NAR® report also noted the effects of such projects related to homeowners' desire to spend time on their property. Among homeowners who participated in the NAR® report and committed to standard lawn care service, 58 percent indicated they had a greater desire to be at home since completing the project, while 46 percent indicated they have an increased sense of enjoyment when spending time at home.



# Cost-effective curb appeal booster

One shouldn't judge a book by its cover. However, that often is hard not to do, particularly when it comes to homes.

**C**urb appeal bears significant influence regarding how a property is perceived. A property that is neat and aesthetically appealing probably will be preferable to one that looks like the homeowners did not maintain it.

Boosting curb appeal is a common focus of sellers before listing a property. But what can those who don't have big budgets for major overhauls do to improve their curb appeal? Plenty of projects can offer maximum output with minimal investment.

**REFRESH THE FRONT DOOR**

Painting the front door can add brightness and improve the look of a home's entryway. Most exterior paint costs between \$30 and \$40 per gallon, so this is undeniably a budget-friendly improvement. If money allows, replacing the door altogether will generate bang for your buck.

**IMPROVE OR ADD LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS**

Landscaping should be designed to highlight the home's best features. It should look symmetrical and feel manicured. If it's not possible to plant new flowers or bushes, simply cleaning up debris and weeds, and trimming existing greenery can make it feel neater and more polished.

**CLEAN UP**

Power-washing the siding, cement walkways and garage door can create instant impact. It's amazing how much dirt and mildew can reduce the luster of a home. Cleaning off years of grime can be a fast and inexpensive refresh.

**RESEAL THE DRIVEWAY**

Make sure the driveway is clean and tidy. If it has cracks or discoloration, filling in cracks and applying a new coat of sealer will make a big difference. Homeowners can hire someone to reseal the driveway or do the work on their own.

**ADD MORE LIGHTING**

Updating front porch lights and accent lights around the property will cast a more positive glow on a home, both literally and figuratively.

**ADD A SEATING AREA**

If space by the front door allows, add a bench or some chairs to create a welcoming seating area. A potted plant or two nearby will help the area seem intentional.

Improving curb appeal doesn't have to cost a lot of money. A few easy touches can boost the look of any property.

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# Notable features of MODERN BATHROOMS

Bathrooms are more than just places to wash up. These spaces are evolving from utilitarian rooms to high-tech sanctuaries with all the modern conveniences one can imagine.

**H**omeowners are increasingly investing more into their bathrooms, reflecting a growing desire for quiet luxury and personal health.

According to the 2026 National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) Trends Report, 72 percent of designers report that clients are enlarging their bathrooms to accommodate new wellness-centered features. Modern bathrooms are defined by some notable features.

#### HOME SPA SHOWER

The NKBA reports more homeowners now prioritize a larger, feature-rich shower over just a bathtub. Steam showers are no longer niche; they integrate aromatherapy and chromotherapy (mood-enhancing light) systems into the designs. Although open, walk-in showers are still popular for their accessibility, there's a rising trend in shower pods, which are enclosed, cozy spaces that more effectively retain heat and steam.

#### AGING IN PLACE ELEMENTS

Features once associated with getting older are now being rebranded as high-end design elements. According to Forbes, curbless entries and built-in benches are some luxury safety features built into modern bathrooms.

#### SMART TECHNOLOGY

Polaris Market Research says the global smart bathroom market is projected to exceed \$11 billion in 2026. Technology focused on efficiency and hygiene is popular. Intelligent toilets that have self-cleaning UV nozzles, heated seats and motion-activated lids are rising in popularity. Smart faucets with precise flow control and leak detection are also becoming standard, with Houzz saying sustainability features like these are a must-have for 84 percent of renovators.

#### EVOLVING MINIMALISM

Organic minimalism is a defining style within modern bathroom trends for 2026. This idea prioritizes clean looks with natural materials like stone and wood, which are replacing cool grays and stark whites that have been dominating bathroom schemes for some time, according to Re-Bath design expert Jenny Mars. Designers favor large-format slabs or tiles to minimize grout lines. Earthy tones like sage green, terracotta, and warm wood vanities are also popular.

#### LAYERED LIGHTING

Design pros are using lighting as a functional tool, and say that task lighting must be layered for the best effect. Nighttime-specific low-glow lighting and integrated mirror LEDs support a natural circadian rhythm while offering comfort and safety. The NKBA says 91 percent of respondents cite lighting as a top priority in their bathroom designs. Mood lighting in showers and other lighting features are popular requests.

Modern bathrooms continue to evolve with features that add aesthetic appeal, sustainability and technology to these historically utilitarian spaces.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The waterfall edge style of countertops has evolved from a high-end niche trend into an increasingly popular staple of modern architectural design. Unlike traditional countertops that end at the edge of the cabinet, a waterfall edge makes a 90-degree turn and continues down to the floor, covering a kitchen peninsula or island. According to Angi, waterfall edge countertops are known for their seamless and continuous appearances that really are show-stopping to see. They tend to make a bigger visual impact compared to traditional horizontal slabs. It's im-

portant to note that not every stone fabricator is willing or able to execute the waterfall effect. Installation requires a precise mitered edge, which risks chipping the fine-cut corner. The added expense also is nothing to take lightly. Waterfall edges also can make cleaning more involved. There is no lip at the end of counters, so it's hard to get a dustpan flush to catch crumbs off the surface. Also, the side panels of stone mean there's extra surfaces to clean and seal. The uniqueness of waterfall edge countertops merits careful consideration prior to installation.



## Preventing spring water leaks

Ah, spring! The snow has its last hurrah and warmer days are back for good... or almost. Since spring also means rain, there's unfortunately also a higher risk of water damage. Take a good look around your property to make sure your home stays dry during this year's spring showers.

#### Roof

- Examine the condition of the roofing materials for signs of wear and aging (missing or loose shingles, buckling, upturned corners, etc.).
- Make sure there is enough gravel to fully protect the layer of asphalt. Gravel prevents black surfaces from overheating and reflects ultraviolet rays, preventing premature damage to the membrane.

If your roof needs to be replaced, there are some shingle options that are more resistant to harsh weather changes – some high-performance shingles are resistant to winds of up to 220 km/h, others such as Class 4 shingles that can withstand hailstones of up to 2 inches in diameter.

Roof maintenance can be dangerous. If necessary, seek the help of a professional.

#### Gutters, downspouts and drains

During winter, the weight of the ice and snow may have weakened your gutters, and they may be blocked by various debris. This is why spring maintenance is important. Here's what to do:

- Remove leaves that have accumulated in the gutters.
- Check that the gutters are securely attached.
- Pour water into the gutters to ensure that there are no leaks and the water is escaping down the drainpipe.
- Make sure the downspouts divert water as far away from the foundation as possible.

#### Doors and windows

Heavy rain can seep through any opening. That's why you should do the following in the spring:

- Inspect the seals around doors and windows to make sure they are watertight.

- If needed, repair caulking and replace weatherstripping.
- Get rid of any debris from the window wells that could prevent water from properly draining away from them.

#### Foundation

Once the ground has thawed, it's very important to check the foundation's condition to identify any problems and prevent damage due to water seepage.

- Thoroughly inspect the foundation, both inside and out. Have a specialist repair any cracks immediately.
- Seek professional advice if there are signs of efflorescence (white deposits), seepage or localized humidity. This can mean a foundation drain malfunction (e.g. clogged drain).

#### Drain in front of the basement garage door

The accumulation of leaves or other debris can prevent the drain from working well. What should you do?

- Clear the grate of the drain in front of the door of any debris (e.g., leaves, ice, snow) in order to allow water to escape.
- Also clean the drain underneath the grate so that the drain is not obstructed.
- Move the gutter drainpipes that empty onto the slope of the garage entryway to prevent the drain from becoming overloaded.

#### Backwater valve to stop sewer back-up

The backwater valve is part of the plumbing system and is located in the basement. Its simple open-close flap does an important job: making sure the municipal sewage system doesn't back up into the drains. You'll need to clean it as part of your seasonal routine in order for it to work properly. Here's how:

- Remove the cover and unscrew the access plug (note: if you have a cast iron valve with a bolted cover, it's best to have a plumber do it).
- Make sure the flap opens and closes freely. Remove any debris and check the condition of the gasket.
- Remove the flap door and clean the sealing gasket.
- Replace the flap and make sure there's nothing preventing it from opening and closing.
- Screw the access plug back on tightly and replace the cover.

#### Your property insurance

These precautions will help you welcome spring and avoid unpleasant surprises. But, for peace of mind, it's best to be properly insured as well. Find out about the insurance coverage available from Desjardins Insurance.

If you're interested in more ways to protect your home, give me a call to discuss your property needs – and, visit [desjardins.com/en/tips](https://www.desjardins.com/en/tips).



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## Spring clean your way to a successful sale

Clean like you're preparing your home for sale—or get your home ready for sale by doing the ultimate spring clean. Either way, you win.

When it comes to selling your home, first impressions are everything. A deep, intentional spring clean doesn't just freshen up your space—it helps buyers emotionally connect, visualize themselves living there, and ultimately drives stronger offers.

**THE 5 MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO FOCUS ON**

**1. DECLUTTER & DEPERSONALIZE**

Think less “your home” and more “a home.” Remove excess furniture, clear countertops, and pack away personal photos and niche décor. The goal is to create space, light, and a blank canvas where buyers can picture their own lives unfolding.

**2. KITCHENS & BATHROOMS: THE DEAL MAKERS**

These are the most scrutinized rooms in any home.

- Deep clean appliances (inside and out)
- Polish fixtures until they shine
- Scrub grout, caulking, and tile
- Eliminate any odors

A spotless kitchen and bathroom signal that the home has been well cared for.

**3. FLOORS, WALLS & HIGH-TOUCH SURFACES**

- Buyers notice what you've stopped seeing.
- Vacuum and steam clean carpets
  - Wash baseboards and walls
  - Wipe down doors, trim, and light switches
  - Clean interior windows for maximum natural light

These details elevate the entire feel of the home.

**4. STORAGE SPACES (CLOSETS, GARAGE, BASEMENT)**

- Buyers will open everything.
- Neatly organize closets (less is more—aim for 50–70% full)

- Tidy the garage and storage areas
- Create a sense of usable, abundant space

An organized home suggests there's “room for life.”

**5. CURB APPEAL & OUTDOOR LIVING**

Your home's first impression starts before buyers even walk in.

- Rake, sweep, and refresh landscaping
- Clean walkways and driveways
- Add simple touches like fresh mulch or seasonal planters

A welcoming exterior sets the tone for the entire showing.

**2 SMALL TOUCHES THAT MAKE A BIG IMPACT**

**✓ The Front Door Moment**

One of the most overlooked—but powerful—details.

Thoroughly clean both the exterior and interior of your front door, polish the hardware, and consider a fresh coat of paint if needed.

It's the first impression when entering and the last when leaving—make it count.

**✓ Light & Air Quality**

Swap outdated bulbs for bright, warm lighting and open windows to let fresh air in. A clean-smelling, well-lit home feels bigger, newer, and more inviting instantly.

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# Bolton Brewers enshrine Cirone, Bond, and Wallace at first annual Hall of Fame Banquet



Brett Bond, Eric Cirone, and Adam Wallace (l to r) were enshrined in the Bolton Brewers Hall of Fame on Friday night. Current Head Coach/Player Mike Wallace (right) served as Emcee and enshrined the ballclub's inaugural inductees. All three members of the Class of 2026 won five straight NDBL championships (2009-2013) and added two more in 2017 and 2021 before retiring. It's an "impressive legacy."

BY JIM STEWART

The Bolton Brewers hosted their inaugural Hall of Fame Banquet at Caesars on Friday night.

The Brewers' rich, winning tradition was on display at the first-time event during which star players Eric Cirone (#59), Brett Bond (#9), and Adam Wallace (#51) were enshrined.

The Brewers' current Player/Head Coach Mike Wallace served as Emcee and moved the program along with brief anecdotes about each of the inductees who were key players during Bolton's championship streak. The local ball-

club won seven Strother Cups between 2009 and 2021.

After the Banquet, Coach Wallace observed that "It's always nice to go down memory lane with those guys. It was sentimental to see so many of the old, retired players come in from Windsor, London, Sudbury, and Orillia. So many of the guys aged out and moved away with new jobs so it was great to have them back. It was also great to honor the traditions of the ball club and for the newer and younger Brewers to see those traditions and create their own new futures."

The informal banquet—attended by over 100

players, coaches, family, and friends—featured a Poker Tournament that followed the buffet meal and replaced the team's annual golf tournament as its primary fundraiser.

Included amid the festivities on Friday night was the official unveiling of the Brewers' new navy, gold, and grey uniforms to reflect a re-branding of the 22-year-old North Dufferin Baseball League franchise.

The Brew Crew's jersey upgrade coincides with its move to a new home diamond at Taylor Fields in north Bolton where they'll kick off their NDBL season on Monday, May 11 by hosting the Midland Mariners at 7 p.m.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for Taylor Fields is scheduled for May 20.

The older Brewers' gear—reflecting the "Harvey Wallbanger Brewers" of the 1980s—was retired with seven championships in them—five in a row from 2009-2013 and two more in 2017 and 2021.

Wallace reflected fondly on that Dynastic Era: "Part of the legacy created by Eric, Brett, and Adam is that we represented 'small town baseball' against larger centres—even Bob Elliott of The Toronto Sun wrote about our team's success. How could you not fall in love with the Brewers and the style of baseball we played? It

was a Cinderella Story to win those early championships—somewhat like a mid-major college team making a run at March Madness—but we turned into a league powerhouse and became favorites when we won the Cup seven times in twelve years."

The Brewers will be looking to bounce back from an uncharacteristic fourth-place finish (12-9-1) in 2025.

Bolton eliminated the Lisle Astros in the first round of the playoffs, but fell to the New Lowell Knights in the semifinals. The Knights—Bolton's nemesis during the last few seasons—won the Strother Cup in a nailbiting seven-game series with the Owen Sound Baysox.

One of the brightest stories connected to the Local Nine in 2025 was the play of Brewers shortstop Brett Chater. The talented veteran led the loop in hitting (.524) to capture the Creemore Star Trophy. Based on his stellar productivity in the batter's box and his fine play at shortstop, Chater earned the Bruce Jenkins Memorial Trophy as the NDBL's MVP.

Chater and his teammates—old and new—will look to re-establish the championship-winning traditions of the Bolton Brewers in the upcoming 2026 season.

# 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.

**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!

## Run for Honeywood event marks Mulmur 175 and brings attention to ageing arena

BY JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Run for Honeywood will bring runners, walkers and families to the rolling hills of Mulmur for a community-focused fundraiser that pairs fitness with local history and hospitality.

As part of Mulmur's ongoing 175-year anniversary celebrations, the North of 89 Alliance, a local charity fundraising organization, has organized the Run for Honeywood event on May 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lisa Thompson, one of the event organizers, said that the running event aims to be accessible to a broad mix of abilities – from competitive runners to casual walkers and seniors looking for an afternoon outing – and promises scenic views along rural roads that showcase the area's landscape and heritage.

"It's all going to start from Honeywood, and they are going to go 5k one direction, 10k in the other," she said. "We have options available, and there's even a relay portion for kids that want to participate. It's going to be a fantastic experience, up at the top of Honeywood, the view of the local area, the landscape is just beautiful."

The run's primary purpose is to raise funds for the Honeywood Arena, a longtime community hub that hosts hockey, birthday parties, gatherings and other events. Thompson said that the facility needs significant upgrades to remain safe and welcoming for all residents.

"For this particular run, we're not only celebrating Mulmur's 175 but we're also trying to continue to raise money for the Honeywood arena," she said. "It desperately needs a lot of money to upgrade it to the building that it should be." "Mulmur doesn't have a true downtown, so this arena

is our community space. That's where families go to not only play hockey, but they're going for birthday parties, for weddings, they're going for celebrations. It is our community hub," Thompson added.

Key priorities include making the building wheelchair accessible - installing ramps, accessible doors and an elevator so people with mobility challenges can view events - as well as addressing urgent mechanical and structural repairs such as a failing condenser and roof leaks.

Initial estimates put the total capital needed between \$6 million and \$10 million.

Spearheading the fundraising and broader community initiatives is the North of 89 Alliance, a small nonprofit born from the My Honeywood campaign.

"Originally, they had come up with the My Honeywood fundraising group... tasked to envision what the building should look like, what it needs," Thompson said. "Eventually, we branched off into the broader North of 89 Alliance, because North Dufferin, anything north of 89, is kind of forgotten about."

With the mantra 'good people doing good things,' the alliance formed to pull together fundraising for the arena while also directing support to local food banks in Alliston and Shelburne.

Organizers of the Run for Honeywood hope that visitors from neighbouring towns – and even people who are just passing through – will stop, spend time locally and discover the attractions that make Mulmur unique in the region.

The Run for Honeywood aims to be an inclusive day of family fun while raising critically needed funds for great causes.

For more information, go to <https://www.zeffy.com/en-ca/ticketing/run-for-honeywood>.

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Caledon Public Library staff gather after the event.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

# Palgrave Public School emerges on top as CPL holds inaugural Battle of the Books

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

To celebrate the fun of reading and literacy with a friendly competition, the Caledon Public Library (CPL) recently held its inaugural Battle of the Books event.

Six local Caledon elementary schools de-

scended on the Caledon East Community Complex to battle for first place in the event.

The students, ranging from Grade four to Grade six, were tasked with reading ten different books and then competing in buzzer-beater rounds answering trivia questions, working towards the title of Grand Champion.

This new event program aims to highlight

the importance of literacy and community engagement among young readers in Caledon.

Nicole Agar, a Programming and Outreach Coordinator at the Caledon Public Library, was the driving force behind bringing Battle of the Books to CPL.

An idea that had existed in her head for numerous years finally came to fruition this year when she was approached by a local teacher with a similar idea, and it took off from there.

It was true team effort, she says, as numerous teachers helped prepare for the event, and Agar worked with the Orangeville Public Library as well to craft questions and help with book selection.

Capping it at just six teams and ten books this year, she plans to grow the program even more following the success of this year's event.

"The kids knew the answers so quickly, so much faster than I thought they would know the answers," recalled Agar at the end of the event. "We were often ahead of time because the kids were so fast at answering."

Students were also able to "steal" a question from an opposing team if they were unable to answer in time or answered incorrectly.

At the end of the day, Palgrave Public School emerged as the Grand Champions of the inaugural event, and medals and trophies were presented to the teams that participated.

"If you can read, you can do anything," says Agar.

"The more kids are reading, the more they're going to be able to adapt to the world that's always changing. People say that literacy is dying, but we have proof that it is not, and we see it every day in the library."

## Proposed by-law amendments target 24/7 vibration and nuisance concerns

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A proposed by-law amendment, years in the making, has once again circled back to Council regarding the regulation of vibrations and nuisances.

During the April 28th Council meeting, Councillor Christina Early tabled a motion for Staff to amend the proposed vibrations and nuisances by-law by increasing the provisions.

Early shared during the meeting that a similar motion was originally tabled by Mayor Annette Groves back in 2024 and referred at that time.

Early's motion directs Staff to review and report back by June 2026 on various increases in provisions to the by-law, including hours and standards.

The provisions include expanding the scope of the by-law to prohibit nuisances and vibrations likely to disturb inhabitants "24 hours a day, 7 days a week, rather than only during designated nighttime hours," as well as establishing a maximum Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) limit of 2.0 mm/s for all vibrations originating from industrial, fill, and aggregate extraction operations

A provision regarding boundary-based measurement that would require compliance with the 2.0 mm/s PPV limit to be measured at the boundary line of the parcel on which blasting or other industrial activity occurs.

"For greater certainty, no vibration exceeding 2.0 mm/s PPV shall be permitted to cross the property boundary or be experienced on any neighbouring lands within the Town of Caledon," it states.

Continued on Page B13

## OBITUARIES

### NORMAN 'ROSS' MCALPINE

It is with profound sadness that the family announces the passing of Norman 'Ross' McAlpine peacefully on April 22, 2026.

Beloved father of Karen (Scott)Hannon and his grand puppies Gus and Coffee Girl and Polly his grand cat. Amazing Grandfather to Ashley Stubbs and Tyler Parker and Jaime and Martin Olsen, Eve and Dennis Hannon. Great Grandfather to Lyra and Haven and grand puppy Kiko. Predeceased by his wife Mildred (Sanders) McAlpine

Predeceased by his parents Norman and Jean McAlpine

Brother to Shirley (Bill)(d), Lorne, Grant (Debbie), Marg (Ron), Helen (John)(d) Allen, Glen, Roy (Pam) Heather (Alan)(d) Bev (Mac).

Stepfather to Donald (Marj) Sanders, Joy (George) Stubbington and Wesley (Irene) Sanders

Dad spent 65 years in the concrete industry. After he retired, he would go back and make sure the operation was going well.

After Mildred passed away Dad had a great group of friends. Coffee dates with Tim and Tom in Cheltenham, Thursday morning coffee with John and the gang at Timmie's and his nightly chat with Melanie and Sunday morning breakfast with his brother Lorne

Kim Clarkson was a blessing to both Mum and Dad. Thank you for the care you gave Dad in the last weeks of his life I am so thankful that I had the best dad in the world. Spending the last few weeks with you to make sure you were taken care of and not in pain. I luv and miss you Dad

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Online condolences can be made at [www.imfunerals.com](http://www.imfunerals.com)

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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

# Mountains to Climb: Close 2 Home Caledon fundraiser sets plan in action

BY RILEY MURPHY  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Following their inaugural fundraiser, Fashion Blooms, organization Close 2 Home Caledon has officially begun fundraising for their dream of an inclusive community here in Caledon.

Close 2 Home Caledon is an organization raising funds to build community-based supportive housing for adults with diverse needs in the community.

Founded in 2024, Liana Cancian, Elena Rosati, and Blanca Polanco came together as individuals who had all experienced the challenges of limited housing options in Caledon and insufficient government funding and support, all with the same vision in mind.

Cancian says that with waitlists for accessible housing and services for adults with disabilities in Peel Region over 15 years long, limited government funding, and a lack of supportive housing, they seek to create a community in Caledon where young adults with developmental challenges and diverse abilities can live independently in community-based housing.

Most importantly, creating that community for these individuals so they can be close to their families and close to their homes.

But their dream comes with a high fundraising goal, and after officially obtaining registered charitable status, they have begun raising funds towards it.

They started their fundraising journey earlier this month with Fashion Blooms, their fashion show fundraiser.

Close 2 Home welcomed the Caledon community for an afternoon of fun, fashion, shopping, and more, all in support of a good cause.

After announcing their fundraiser, Cancian says they sold out, selling 240 tickets for the big day.

Unofficially, they've raised approximately \$90,000 from their first big fundraiser.

"It was our first official event [and we're] hoping to have many, many more. We plan to do this kind of event probably every year. I think it's going to be a great success; it seems we had a great response," says Cancian.

Currently, their funds are set to be used for purchasing and retrofitting a home.

"It feels like a dream," Cancian says, looking back on their fundraiser.

Being able to combine fashion with her love for her mission, she says, are two of her passions.

"This was literally just an idea on a dining room table in my home," she says, reflecting on how the mission has grown.

"I was just in awe because I love to see the

fashion part of it," she adds. "And then I love to see where it's going and the mission. It's truly a dream come true for me."

Looking ahead to their goals, she knows they still have ways to go.

"I still feel like it's a tall mountain to climb," says Cancian. "Housing isn't cheap and it is going to be a pretty investment. I don't think it's something we'll be able to create tomorrow because housing and staffing is a big expense. But, in a year and a half, we've definitely come leaps and bounds."

"Starting a non-profit in my dining room, we've become, in just a short year, a charity. And then from a charity, we started planning events, raising money. In a year and a half, raising \$90,000 or more than that, is definitely something to be proud of."

Cancian says there are days when she worries they haven't made a dent in their overall goal yet, as they still have much to raise, but "it's still a step in the right direction."

At the event, she says it only pushed them to continue their mission after hearing how many people faced the same struggles they do, every day.

People were approaching the Close 2 Home team, saying that what they're hoping to achieve is something "needed in this town."

"Hearing that, to me, is music to my ears," says Cancian. "I just feel like we are kind of trailblazing into something that is needed."

"It definitely touched a lot of hearts."

They're hoping to have the same event next year in April, for those looking to mark their calendars ahead of time.

"At the end of the day, this project is a big project to take on, and it's quite a hefty project," says Cancian. "You're dealing with housing and you're dealing with operations. If you do the math with the amount of four or five kids that need 24-hour care, it's quite high. We have to continue to do fundraising."

Cancian adds they're always looking for long-term sponsors and partnerships, "those out there that are looking to invest in something that is going to be a legacy for Caledon."

"We really want to create a legacy home, a home that will continue to prosper for generations. But we can't do it without the help of the community, without the help of some investors that take interest in this," she says.

"We're going to keep saying it over and over and be as loud as we can, because I'm confident that to keep this house sustainable, you could get it up and running in the first year or two. But, to keep it sustainable, we really need to have some really great investors that believe in the vision."

## Proposed by-law amendments target 24/7 vibration and nuisance concerns

Continued from Page B8

Finally, a provision ensuring that any such amendment undergoes a formal public consultation process, allowing affected landowners and community groups to provide technical input.

Early credits community advocate Tony Sevelka for his advocacy regarding the amendment of the Town's vibrations and nuisances by-law.

During the meeting, Town Staff stated they have a new noise by-law being introduced that will repeal both the existing noise by-law and the nuisance by-law, which is "imminent."

Staff says the new noise by-law will include references to vibration as part of the prohibitions, but it is currently not specific about vibration levels.

The challenge was said to be from an enforcement perspective, with difficulties in measuring vibration when it's no longer happening.

"What we're proposing coming through the new by-law is probably a broad power that we're hoping will speak to vibration complaints. It does not, as currently drafted, go as far as measurements and getting down to

that level of granularity," says staff. "But certainly when we bring it forward to you, it's open to this Council to give us direction on how you'd like to see us proceed with that."

Councillor Mario Russo added his support for the motion and put forward an amendment with new provisions.

His amendment addressed the installation of vibration-monitoring devices on the property where blasting or industrial activity occurs, and that exceedances of the 2.0 mm/s PPV limit would not go unmonitored.

It will also entail mandatory monitoring and reporting, requiring continuous or event-based vibration monitoring, with results submitted to the Town within a defined timeframe and made available to the public through an online reporting platform.

Finally, all vibration monitoring is conducted by an independent third-party consultant retained by the Town and paid for by the operator.

The motion was amended and passed, and Town Staff will review and report back in June on their findings.

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