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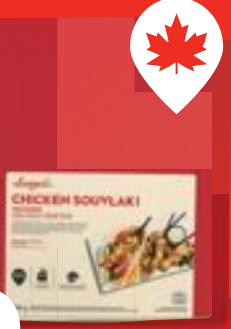


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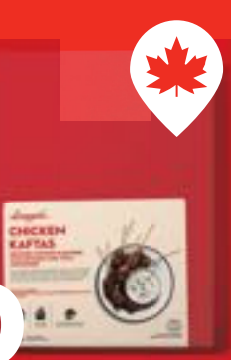


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FREE Thursday, June 11, 2026 Volume 46, Issue 24



Jahan and Natasha are front and centre at the Walk event.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Walking for Jahan: A family's fight for Accessibility, Inclusion and Care

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

At the 2026 Walk and Roll for Muscular Dystrophy Canada, teams gathered around, ready to take on the day and raise funds for neuromuscular research, advocacy, and life-changing treatments.

One team, Team J, stood loud and proud that day, adorned in matching t-shirts, pins and hats.

Team J is named after Mayfield student

and community advocate Jahan Chahal.

Jahan was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy at only 15 months old, a severe, progressive genetic disorder characterized by the deterioration of skeletal, heart, and lung muscles.

Since 2013, the Chahal family has been participating in a walk for muscular dystrophy and has raised over \$300,000 for Duchenne research and support. Their team has since grown to support both Defeat Duchenne Canada and Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

But they don't just participate to fund-raise; for the Chahal family, it's about proving that during hard times, one of the most important things is community.

During the 2026 walk, Jahan's mother, Natasha Chahal, took the time to address the group standing before her that day.

This year alone, they raised approximately \$20,000 for both organizations, bringing the total to over \$300,000 over the past 12 years.

Continued on Page B8

One Caledon: Russo formally launches Mayoral bid in Bolton

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On June 4, Mario Russo officially launched his campaign for Mayor of Caledon with an event in Bolton.

With approximately 400 people in attendance, Russo addressed the crowd, sharing what his upcoming campaign means for both him and for them.

During his speech that evening, Russo said over the past several months he has spoken with residents across Caledon, "different communities, different stories, different priorities, but one message has come through clearly, people love Caledon, and they want leadership that will protect what makes Caledon special while dealing honestly with the challenges we have ahead."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Continued on Page A14

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Blossoms, Blessings, and a Bushel of Fun: Spirit Tree Estate Cidery holds official grand re-opening

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

After officially announcing their re-branding back in April, Spirit Tree Estate Cidery invited the Caledon community to see for themselves the changes they've made to their beloved cidery.

Spirit Tree Estate Cidery has been open for over a decade at its property on Boston Mills Road in Caledon, and has rebranded for the new season to debut its elegant new business.

Moving towards the ideas of a classic winery, the Cidery introduced a new logo, a new look inside the building, and, most of all, a new feel.

For the grand re-opening, owner and operator Thomas Wilson says it was an invitation for everyone to come back and see what they've done, what they've changed,



The official "welcome back" to Spirit Tree Estate Cidery.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Proposed Street Name Change

A Council Meeting will be held to consider a proposed street name change of identified portions for Beech Grove Sideroad east of Main Street. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

Date: June 23rd, 2026
Time: 3:00 pm
Meeting Location: Council Chambers, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The identified section of Beech Grove Sideroad east of Main Street is proposed to be renamed 'Golf Canada Drive'. The name 'Golf Canada Drive' was approved for use in Caledon by the Region of Peel Street Names Committee on May 9, 2026.

The section of street proposed for renaming was identified as a potential location for the following reasons:

- Reflects local geographic context, given its location within and adjacent to established golf course lands;
- Enhances wayfinding and visibility, particularly at the first bend in the roadway, supporting both drivers and emergency response services; and,
- Commemorate Golf Canada, a non-profit organization with notable contributions to the local community.

The recommendation for the proposed Street renaming has been made in accordance with the requirements of the Town of Caledon's Corporate Policy on Street Naming and Appendix 5 of the Town of Caledon's Street Naming Procedure.

AFFECTED PROPERTY

Current Address	Proposed New Address
1564 Beech Grove Sideroad	1904 Golf Canada Drive

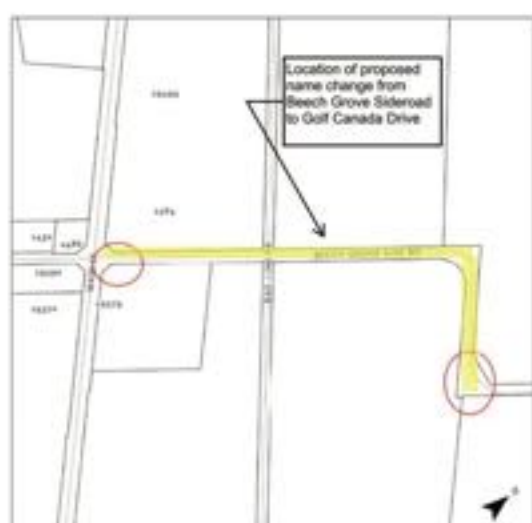
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information about this matter, please visit Street Naming - Town of Caledon, visit www.caledon.ca/notices or contact Kristen Domingos at 905-584-2272 ex.4349 or Kristen.domingos@caledon.ca or at Town Hall from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY:

If you require an accessibility accommodation to attend or participate in this speaking at Council, or to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Records and Information Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca. Requests should be submitted at least 10 days before the Council meeting.

Notice Date: June 8, 2026



*The mapping is for information purposes and it is subject to change. The application is currently under review by the Town of Caledon.



6311 Old Church Road
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6
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and how they revamped their look and style.

Overall, a true introduction, he said.

The grand re-opening also provided Spirit Tree Estate Cidery with the opportunity to host the traditional Wassail performance by Orange Peel Morris, which they usually hold in the Spring.

The traditional Wassail performance is to "encourage the spirits into ensuring a good harvest the following season."

The Orange Peel Morris held a procession into the orchard, where they blessed this year's blossoms.

Also, at the event that day, there were lots of samples.

Wilson said they wanted to ensure the community could try their brand-new menu items, including a special apple cake made specifically for the celebration.

Wilson said people have already noticed the new look and told him they were "amazed" by the new logo and renovations.

"I'm just really amazed with the new look," said Wilson. "It definitely has a more warm, elegant look to it."

One of his favourite parts of their re-brand actually came about by accident.

In the middle of their building is a pergola on the roof, and during renovations, they decided to add a small light.

The light now shines directly onto the entire roof and looks exactly like the star shown in their brand-new logo.

And with the light is a small copper apple weather vane.

"Our logo is the pergola," said Wilson.

As everyone gathered outside for the official ribbon-cutting, Wilson filled the crowd in on the work that had brought them to this point.

"Spirit Tree has been a lifelong vision of ours. My family goes back six generations," he said. "My wife Nicole and I came here to this site back in 2005 with

a vision of what you see here behind me. We opened in 2009 trying to be one of the best cideries in not only Ontario, not only Canada, but one of the best in the world. That was our vision."

"We wanted to bring those more European, those more true classic ciders that are in Europe, we wanted to bring them here to Caledon for everyone to enjoy, and that's what we built here," he added.

And with their cidery came their bakery, restaurant, farm shop, and more.

"We wanted this to be a true special place for people to come and enjoy food and drink," said Wilson.

Their vision was also to make their business truly environmentally friendly, and they did just that.

The building itself was grown in Caledon, put together by straw bales that were farmed just down the road from the building itself.

"It was a vision that we believed in and we wanted everyone to experience," said Wilson. "It's been quite a few years supporting the community, them supporting us, and then we're supporting back."

"Thank you everyone for supporting us for this revitalization of Spirit Tree," he added. "A new look, a new style that is really part of our main vision that we started with at the start of this."

"This is what happens when a really good entrepreneur has a vision, and in 2005, they had a vision," said Regional Councillor Christina Early at the ribbon cutting. "This is a true testament of what agritourism is for Caledon, and it is a place for the community to come with their families to enjoy."

The celebration fell during Local Food Week in Ontario, and as the ribbon was cut and the Wassail performance was held, the community was invited back to try all that local producers have to offer right here in Caledon.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golf Canada headquarters construction complete ahead of 2026 RBC Canadian Open

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

In 2022, Golf Canada and TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley announced their official partnership and vision to build the new home and headquarters of Golf Canada on the TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley grounds in Caledon.

Now, ahead of the 2026 RBC Canadian Open, held once again at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley, that vision has come to life and is complete.

This three-story, 26,000-square-foot, \$24 million headquarters is on an eight-acre site next to TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley, a media release by the Construction Manager, Gillam, says it is expected to serve as Golf Canada's national headquarters for the next 50 to 100 years.

The headquarters has been relocated from Oakville following TPC Toronto Osprey Valley's expressed interest in establishing the partnership. After deciding to partner with Gillam on the project, they broke ground in 2024.

Gillam says the new headquarters is part of the larger "Home for Canadian Golf project," which also includes relocating the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum, the construction of Talon Links community putting park, and the First Tee – Canada Headquarters, which provides children with life-enhancing experiences through golf.

The putting park, Talon Links, occupies approximately two acres of the eight-acre property and was built intentionally to attract golfers and non-golfers to the location and enjoy an 18-hole golf experience.

Everyone is welcome at Talon Links, at no charge, and putters and balls are provided.

Golf Canada says it is part of their mandate to "grow the game and to make golf more accessible and enjoyable," adding that Talon Links does just that.

With the RBC Canadian Open on the

horizon, the official opening of the new building creates the perfect opportunity to show everything the new home has to offer.

Grant Fraser, Project Manager, Golf Canada, says that the RBC Canadian Open is a "significant Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour event," and that Golf Canada "will be on display not just across Canada, but throughout the United States as well."

"It's our national championship and a significant event for all of us at Golf Canada. We want to put our best foot forward for the golfing world and to proudly say this is Golf Canada's new home and Home for Canadian Golf," says Fraser.

The other component of the project was relocating the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame.

"Under the leadership and direction of Meggan Gardner, Golf Canada's Director of Heritage Services, Golf Canada has modernized the whole Hall of Fame experience, providing exhibits and displays celebrating Canadian golf history. In addition to having exhibits and displays at the TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley Main Clubhouse, Golf Canada's office is decorated with an assortment of Canadian golf artifacts, images and memorabilia," says Fraser.

The building itself is an open-concept space, and Gillam says they designed the look and facade to fit in with the others on site.

"What made this successful was the way we managed the project," said Jeff Collett, Project Director at Gillam. "We coordinated the different aspects of the project and were able to find creative solutions to problems resulting in cost savings."

Although there was said to be some "fine-tuning" still underway at the site, Gillam and Golf Canada are excited to welcome the community to see the brand-new home for Golf Canada.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee will be hosting a virtual meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2026 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

This meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about traffic safety programs in the Town of Caledon and share their thoughts with the Town, Region of Peel, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Committee members.

To join the meeting, visit: www.caledon.ca/tsacvirtualmeeting.

For more information, contact Service Caledon by dialling 3-1-1 and follow the Town of Caledon on social media @townofcaledon.

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PEEL OFFICER KILLED IN LINE OF DUTY IN JAMES BAY

Charges have been laid in connection with the death of an OPP officer killed in the line of duty near Hearst.

“On Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at approximately 12:30 p.m., members of the James Bay OPP were attempting to stop a vehicle as part of an ongoing investigation,” say Police. “During the attempted apprehension, an officer was struck by the vehicle. The officer, OPP Provincial Constable Tarun Bali, was seriously injured and was later pronounced deceased.

“OPP members and a Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service member took the individual into custody.”

As a result of the investigation, Justin Veronneau, 18, of Hearst, was charged with the following Criminal Code offences:

- First degree murder, section 235(2);
- Assault police, section 270(1)(a);
- Flight from police, section 320.17 - two counts;

- Resist arrest, section 129(a);
- Dangerous operation causing death, section 320.13(3);
- Dangerous operation of motor vehicle, section 320.13(1).

The accused remains in custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Hearst on Wednesday, June 24, 2026.

The charges have not been proven.

The investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident remains ongoing, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch, in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

Anyone with information in relation to this incident is urged to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477(TIPS) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

“The OPP is supporting the member’s family as they navigate this profound loss. We extend our sincere condolences to all those affected by this tragic event and recognize its significant impact on loved ones, colleagues and the broader policing community.

More information will be provided as it

becomes available.

OPP Provincial Constable Tarun Bali was assigned to the Dufferin Detachment, with two and a half years of service. At the time of his death, Provincial Constable Bali, who was 29 years of age, was on deployment with the James Bay Detachment.

NO FLY ZONE FOR CANADIAN OPEN

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is advising the public of a temporary no-fly zone during the RBC Canadian Open.

“From June 10 to June 14, 2026, between 10:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. daily, a no-fly zone will be in effect over and around the RBC Canadian Open at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley, located at 19131 Main Street in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “During this time, the unauthorized operation of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) is strictly prohibited.

“The OPP reminds the public that operating a drone in restricted airspace may result in enforcement action, including fines and other penalties.”

For more information about flying drones safety and legally, including possible penalties, visit: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/aviation/drone-safety/learn-rules-you-fly-your-drone/flying-your-drone-safely-legally>.

“On May 30, 2026, at approximately 6:00 p.m., members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were dispatched to the area of 6th Line and Highway 89 in the Township of Amaranth after receiving reports of a male driver slumped over in the driver’s seat of a vehicle that was blocking a live lane of traffic,” say Police.

“Fearing a medical emergency, officers and emergency personnel responded immediately to the scene. Upon arrival, officers located the vehicle and spoke with the driver. A female passenger was also found inside the vehicle and appeared to be slumped over.

“While speaking with the driver, officers observed signs of impairment and subsequently initiated an impaired driving investigation. During the investigation, officers located open alcohol and drug paraphernalia inside the vehicle.”

As a result of the investigation, Ryan Adams, 40, from Amaranth, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs;
- Failure or refusal to comply with demand;
- Driving while under suspension.

The charges have not been proven.

“On June 1, 2026, at approximately 12:11 a.m., members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were dispatched to the area of Highway 89 and Highway 10 after receiving numerous traffic complaints regarding a possible impaired driver.

“The vehicle had reportedly been observed travelling into oncoming traffic. Officers were able to locate the suspect vehicle on Highway 10, just south of Highway 89, in the Town of Mono.

Officers initiated a traffic stop and spoke with the driver. During their interaction, officers observed signs of impairment and subsequently initiated an impaired driving investigation.”

As a result of the investigation, Cameron Palmer, 26, of Dundalk, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- The charge has not been proven.

Continued on Page B4

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IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGES

Members of the Dufferin OPP have charged three local residents with impaired driving-related offences following numerous traffic complaints.

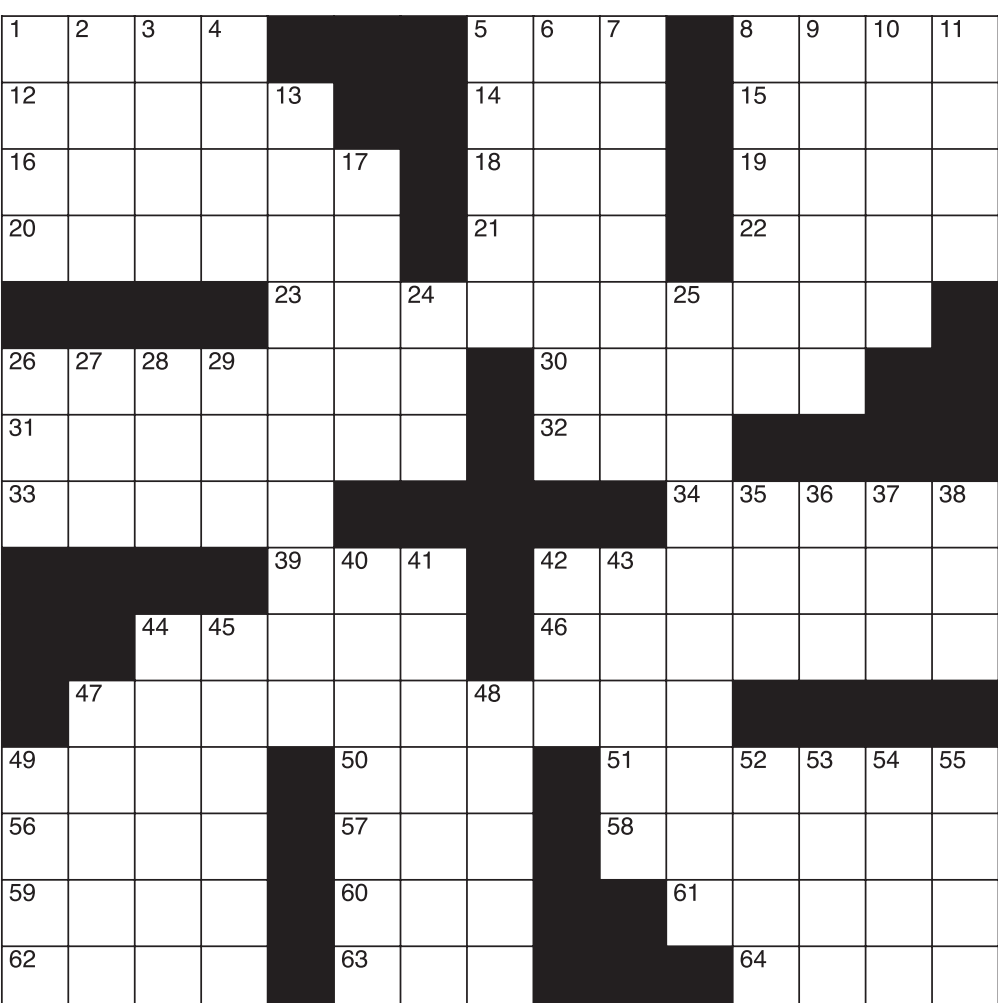
“On May 28, 2026, at approximately 12:06 a.m., officers from the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were dispatched to the area of Fifth Avenue in the Town of Orangeville for a traffic complaint,” say Police. “Offices arrived on scene and located the vehicle of interest. While speaking with the driver, officers initiated an impaired driving investigation.”

As a result of the investigation, Evan Marshall, 31, of Mono, has been charged with:

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

The charges have not been proven.

The Citizen CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- Sealed with a kiss
- Large sandwich
- Swiss city
- Japanese persimmons
- When you hope to get somewhere
- Wings
- A name of God
- Elected official (informal)
- Abnormal breathing
- “Seinfeld” character
- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- Something for sale
- Gets rid of
- One who touts
- Blemished
- Less than exciting
- Born of
- N. German town
- Notes

Puzzle No.

- Move away from land
- Vulcanite
- More ignoble
- Child actor Kirk
- Written works
- Sea vessel
- Residue
- Engraved
- Having sufficient skill
- One and only
- Erase
- Broad inlets
- Nightmarish street
- Play again
- Formerly (archaic)
- Add a color to change the color
- Move swiftly and lightly
- Scottish island
- River in the

Solution in the classifieds.

- Netherlands
- Asian people
- Fuzzy fruit
- Ninth month (abbr.)
- An idealistic social reformer
- What you owe
- Colorless mineral
- Overjoyed
- Rattling breaths
- Tropical Old World tree
- A citizen of Senegal
- Greek mythological beauty
- Wrath
- Instrument to measure wind speed
- Luxury carmaker
- Bitterly regret
- Not or
- Google certification
- Midway between northeast and east
- Space station
- Relating to the ears
- Congressman
- Yelled at
- Rudely assertive
- Defunct European money
- Shared one’s soul
- Onion rolls
- A way to state clearly
- Relating to a lobe
- Underlying message
- Hollywood pig
- Indicates pitch
- Filament of a feather
- Small ornamental ladies’ bag for small articles
- Diminish

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Christmas in July came even earlier this year

Well, I guess it's that time of year again – I've got my first invitation to a so-called "Christmas in July" event.

While I'm certainly not one to frown on fun – and, speaking as a holiday enthusiast, these events almost always are – it's always a bit jarring when event invitations and advertisements for Christmas in July sales roll in at this time of year when summer is still a couple of weeks away.

I know it's not the intent of these occasions, but it sometimes feels like we're almost wishing away the summer. It's not dissimilar to how so many of us wish away the winter to feel the warmth of a good, sunny July day, but these yuletide yearnings make for something of a speedbump along the way to remind us that the cold and dark of the winter is not too far away.

This year, I'm just going to roll with the punches because, truth be told, I had something of a Christmas in July experience last week – a whole month early – when two items that have been on my own "grown-up Christmas list" moved that much closer to becoming reality.

In previous columns, I've often drafted up such a list as the holiday season approached – not in hopes of what I might find under the tree or in my stocking on the morning of December 25, but rather what I would like to see unfold in the year ahead.

Between the start of this month and the end of last week, two perennial entries on my list came tantalizingly closer to coming true.

The first bolt of good news came from the Ministry of Education on June 2 when Paul Calandra, Minister of Education, announced a \$4 million investment to "support new opportunities for high school students to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and gain meaningful real-world experience."

So far so good – and so far so needed and overdue in the public education sector – but what particularly caught my attention was that this program was being delivered in partnership with two venerable organizations that are experts in this field: The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award and The King's Trust Canada.

Both of these well-regarded initiatives have been embraced by our local independent schools and one of my favorite types of human interest stories to tackle in this job is speaking to students who have completed various levels in their quest for Duke of Edinburgh gold. No single experience is similar to another and there's a lot to learn when they share what they've done.

Being a monarchist from a relatively early age, it was often frustrating to go through the public school system aware that these opportunities were available and embraced elsewhere, but were virtually unheard of in our hallowed halls.

I did my best to change that through our student newspaper, such as it was at the time, but my prose didn't exactly set the school community on fire.

Now that the programs are set to get more exposure in Ontario than ever before, it's exciting to look ahead to all students will be learning and experiencing – and we will be a stronger Ontario for it.

"Education must prepare students not just for graduation, but for life beyond school," said Calandra in a statement. "When students have the opportunities to apply their learning in meaningful ways, they leave school better prepared for whatever path they choose. This investment will help more students access those experiences and build a strong foundation for the future."

The Ministry notes that through the partnerships, students will be able to, "enhance their adaptability and readiness for success in a rapidly changing economy; participate in skills development activities that reflect their interests and passions, helping

to build self-confidence and transferable skills they can apply in life after high school; engage in voluntary service to give back to their communities by supporting people, the environment, or charitable organizations; participate in fun, skills-building, and outdoor education programs that are designed to teach young people about critical thinking, communication, networking, problem-solving, time management, and adaptability; [and] access real-world learning to support success in an evolving labour market."

"The King's Trust was founded by HM King Charles III in 1976 and was launched in Canada in 2011," the Ministry notes. "The Trust is part of an international network of charities celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and has supported 1.5 million young people in 25 countries. Its Skills Academy program is designed to help young people to build the foundational skills, such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving and adaptability.

"Celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a globally-recognized youth development framework that supports young people to build confidence, life-skills, and purpose through real-world experiential learning both inside and outside the classroom. This program operates in more than 130 countries worldwide with over 500,000 Canadians participating since 1963."

The other instance of good news in my book came with Prime Minister Mark Carney's announcement of a national A.I. Strategy. Much-needed all around, I was particularly heartened by the fact that this strategy includes A.I. and social media literacy components for students – an element that has always been on my wish list and is much-needed in and of itself.

While one can only hope such programs will be made available to students in elementary and secondary schools as well, should the Provinces get on board, the Strategy includes a literacy component they argue will foster future opportunities.

The National AI Literacy Initiative will offer "entry-level AI training for all Canadians. As part of this effort AI literacy will reach 1 million entry-level post-secondary students and train more than 3,000 educators with AI learning kits in their classrooms. Free, accessible AI learning will include practical courses and sector-relevant modules."

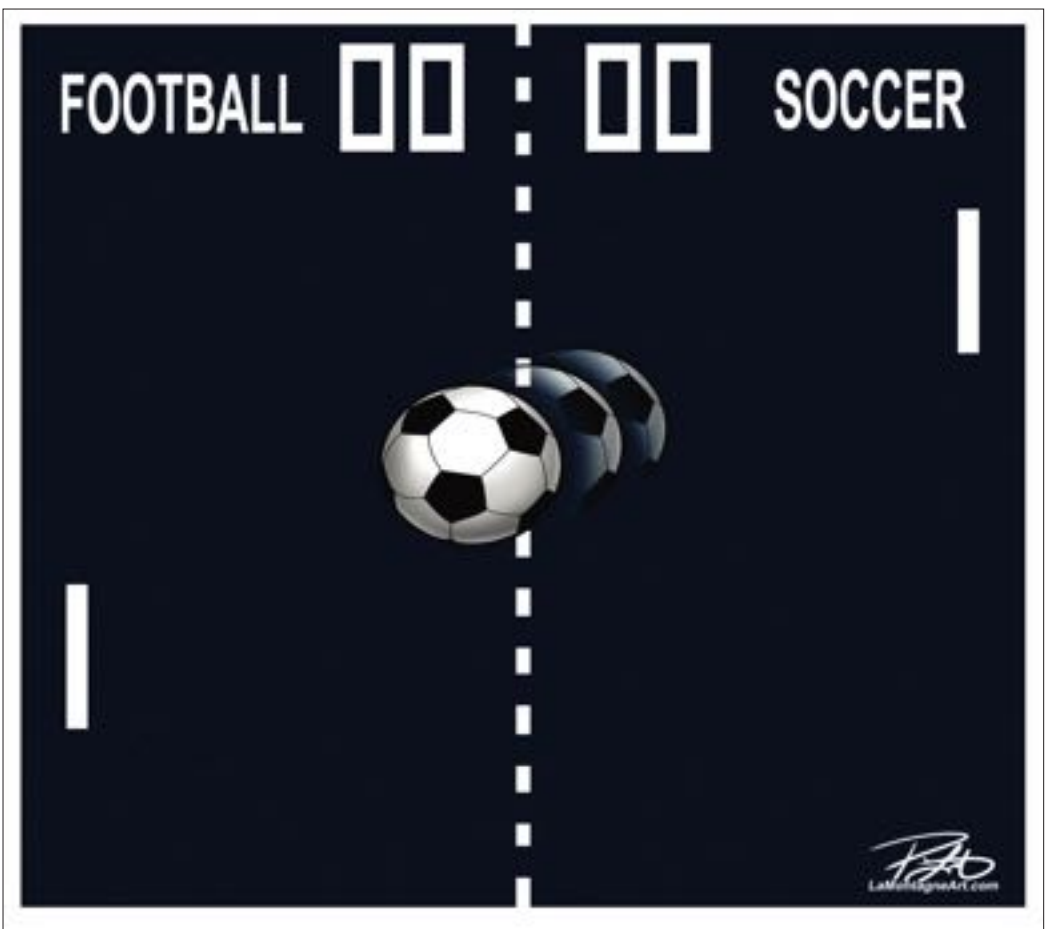
"AI is here. The question is whether it will improve the lives of all Canadians or benefit only a few," said Carney in a statement. "AI can shorten our emergency room wait times and make a small business more competitive, if it is governed by Canadian values with a clear goal of improving the lives of all Canadians. That's why we need an ambitious new strategy: AI for All. We will build trust so that all Canadians are empowered to use this technology safely and with confidence. AI that builds Canada strong for all – that's our mission."

It's a good step forward, but let's keep our fingers crossed that these modules will help students also identify what's AI and what's not with ease, something that is sorely lacking in this day and age.

Perhaps this is just a pipe dream, but perhaps it is something that will work in concert with a potential social media ban for those 16-years-of-age or older. That's a column for a different week, but I remain hopeful.

While I might be able to strike more students being able to benefit from the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and the King's Trust programs from my grown-up Christmas list, with that hope in mind, I have my eraser poised over AI and social media literacy as well.

Let's see where things stand in December!



Everything in the universe is destined to die

by Mark Pavilons



We live, only to one day perish. Seems a bit crappy, no? And yet, everything we know – here on earth and in the cosmos – is destined to dwindle, decay and die out.

It seems to be the order of things. And yet I wonder about it all. It seems like a tremendous amount of effort went into creating the universe some 14 billion years ago. What a shame it would be to see it all crumble and fall apart. Granted, that may not happen for another 14 billion years.

But astronomers have already witnessed doomed, dying and dead stars, who've outlived their usefulness in the grand scheme of things.

Again, with such order, precision and synchronicity, one has to wonder why such a magical tapestry wouldn't last forever.

I imagine that's a question for the Creator to answer.

Albert Einstein said our death is not an end "if we can live on in our children and the younger generation. For they are us; our bodies are only wilted leaves on the tree of life." Death is a rather simple process. For all biological life forms, our cells progressively decline.

That's just how it is. All biological lifeforms are subject to this one universal reality. In fact, they're all geared for it. Biology is driven by a survival of the fittest strategy, a plan that produces the most successful offspring. So that means sending out as many seeds, eggs and babies as possible, so the species may survive.

Once the individual has reproduced, its only evolutionary role is to support the success of its offspring. Aging longer is just not something evolution considers. Given limited environmental resources, the offspring often do better if the older generation doesn't stay around forever, competing with younger generations for scarce resources.

Funny, eh? That right there explains all those old folks jokes and sending parents off to the home.

From an evolutionary standpoint, mortality is an inherent aspect of life that benefits the species. Organisms don't spend a lot of resources on repair and maintenance mechanisms once their reproductive years are past. This strategic allocation ensures the propagation of genes, even at the cost of individual longevity.

Natural selection primarily acts on traits that enhance survival and reproduction up to and during the reproductive age. Once an organism has successfully passed on its genes, the evolutionary pressure to maintain perfect health indefinitely significantly decreases. This explains why aging and death are common in the living world.

So then death becomes a vital part of this "circle of life."

Death allows for generational turnover, which enables species to adapt more quickly to changing environments through natural selection. The removal of older, less adaptable individuals makes way for new generations with potentially beneficial genetic variations. This continuous cycle supports the long-term survival and evolution of the species as a whole.

There are numerous examples in nature where creatures (mothers) die after giving birth or raising their young. That was their intended purpose all along.

Whether an octopus has the intelligence to understand this is unknown – they're quite bright, you know.

Neil deGrasse Tyson said this whole process may seem unfair, almost cruel. But it's part of the design, a constant movement of energy.

Evolution, by its very nature, replaces the old with the new.

Impermanence, he said, is not a flaw, but a rule of reality itself written into the laws of physics.

Life exists as temporary pocket of order, like a candle burning before going out.

Even dead stars – crushed into dust – are recycled into new planets.

Immortality, he noted, would be dangerous because life is built on renewal – new forms arrive on the ashes of the old.

So we humans have been chasing our tails, trying to find the fountain of youth, in order to live forever. But that's impossible, given the above information. If the universe was built on birth, life, decay and death, there's no way around it. We can't cheat it.

Of course, evolution can take millions of years, so what we reap today may not show up for many generations.

Will we grow shorter legs because we're using scooters to take us from place to place? Will our arms grow longer to facilitate even more selfies? And will our thumbs grow long and strong to accommodate our texting abilities?

deGrasse Tyson also pointed out that the very cells in our bodies are as old as the earth itself.

Every day, every hour, every second one of the most important events in life is going on in your body – cells are dividing. When cells divide, they make new cells. A single cell divides to make two cells and these two cells then divide to make four cells, and so on. We call this process cell division and cell reproduction because new cells are formed when old cells divide. The ability of cells to divide is unique for living organisms.

But wait, my friends. Doesn't that mean these cells have lived continuously for billions of years? Not immortal, but hey, not bad.

So maybe some things do live forever. A tiny bit of Mark will carry on in the next iteration of skin cells or taste buds or ashes, or bits of energy floating away from my body.

Wait, there's hope. It seems that protons – those little basic building-block of matter – do last forever. They make up the bulk of atoms in all matter. If they don't die, then neither do we.

Is death merely another beginning? That is the question.

According to author J.K. Rowling, "to the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure."

Peter Pan had a similar take on the final journey: "To die will be an awfully big adventure."

Submit your **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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Your friendly June reminder

June is a time when many of us celebrate the actual arrival of summer. It often takes at least into the first week of June before we begin to see a noticeable improvement in the weather and can actually plant flowers and vegetable gardens with some peace of mind. June is also a time for another type of celebration yet sadly, and increasingly so, fewer people are celebrating and it is mostly because they don't have peace of mind and feel unsafe to do so. You might think this only to be true south of the border but celebrating PRIDE, once a June event that many of us looked forward to, seems to be more divisive of late. While Canada is leading the world right now with the bombshell success of Heated Rivalry, bringing under-represented stories to the small screen, in other ways we're stepping back in time and it's a sad and troubling reflection on who we are as a community.

PRIDE done right is when a school board isn't afraid to fly the flag that represents at least 1 in 10 of their student population, likely a figure that underrepresents a community who might be afraid to disclose their true self. PRIDE done right is when a school board, in this case Peel District, proudly flies the rainbow flag sending a message of inclusivity and welcome to their students. PRIDE done right is when communities celebrate through flag raisings, picnics, special library events, drag shows, concerts, vendor markets, parades and other community-focussed and family-friendly events. It's even better when they can do so without fear of backlash, without having to hire additional security, and where all attendees feel safe enough to attend.

I usually look forward to this annual reminder that "Love is Love" but for me, June this year took on a darker meaning when members of the religious right, claiming to represent both the "majority" and the "moral high ground," unleashed a particularly noxious diatribe against members and allies of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

I won't even bother to summarize their hatred here, it doesn't deserve the space. Suffice to say that forgoing the tenets of most major world religions that preach principles such as love, tolerance and acceptance, these groups spread nothing but vitriol and hatred.

Groups like The Association for Reformed Political Action (ARPA) Canada, billed as a Christian nationalist group, continue to lobby against the rights of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Similar efforts are being made by other "socially-conservative" groups like Campaign Life Coalition. In this election year, be aware that they actively seek to influence elections particularly at the municipal level because in their words: "Municipal elections are often overlooked and undervalued, but these are where some of the most important battles in the culture wars are taking place. It's on the municipal level where we elect the school trustees who are respon-

sible for accepting or rejecting increasingly radical sex-ed curriculums, and a plethora of anti-family, pro-homosexualist propaganda designed to eradicate the religious beliefs of traditionally-principled Canadians."

I suppose the irony is lost on them that by encouraging only the votes of the "traditionally-principled" they too are being exclusionary. I guess it doesn't matter though, because for them, it's for all the "right" reasons. Or at least their version of "right."

We might feel like progress is being dialed back and maybe some have forgotten the hard-fought battles waged by those who came before us to ensure that every human being; regardless of race, creed, colour, religion and yes, sexual-orientation, could live a life free of discrimination. I intentionally used "human being" in that last sentence because we are all born HUMAN. Simply that. We are humans. We are sharing this space together and whether we are born to love someone who looks exactly like us, or is a different colour, a different religion, the same-sex or opposite, honestly, who the f&%*k cares! Love is love, I say it every year. We are all just humans trying to make our way in this world and to find someone willing to share that journey with us. At the end of the day, isn't that all any of us really want?

So, on a brighter note I'll end with this: Happy PRIDE. Be an ally not a hater – there's enough hate going around already and PRIDE is really just about love. By the way, so is Heated Rivalry.

At the end of the day Heated Rivalry is a love story and if you watch episodes five and six in particular, you might just understand.

Now if you're done watching TV and looking for local events to attend here is what you need to know.

On June 20, 2026 Orangeville will once again act as the home of "Celebrate Your Awesome," an always fun and popular day-long event featuring concerts, a vendor market, lots of fun activities and culminating in an evening drag show beginning at 7 p.m. All events take place in and around Second Street and in Alexandra Park.

In Caledon, the IDEA Caledon Pride Family Picnic happens June 27 from 12 noon – 2 pm at Caledon East Park.

Free for everyone, the picnic is organized by IDEA Caledon in collaboration with local groups like the Caledon Public Library and Family Transition Place.

Whether you are 2SLGBTQIA+ or a family member, and/or an ally, the picnic is a great place to come and "celebrate community spirit."

This is your friendly June reminder. Love is love. Period. Get out and celebrate being awesome, by being a better human.

MAYOR ANNETTE GROVES
MAYOR GROVES' COLUMN

Joint Police Task Force Cracks Down on Extortion Network, Delivering Major Results



Since 2023, a police Extortion Task Force has been working tirelessly to address violent extortion incidents affecting our communities, including threats, financial demands, shootings, and arsons.

This work reflects a shared commitment to protecting residents, supporting victims, and ensuring people feel safe where they live and work.

In December 2025, a Joint Forces Operation was launched involving Peel Regional Police (PRP), the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC). Through this collaborative effort, 17 individuals — many with ties to an international criminal network — were arrested for targeting business owners and community members across the region, as well as throughout Canada and the United States.

I would like to sincerely thank Caledon OPP for their important role within the Extortion Task Force. Their continued efforts have been instrumental in addressing extortion offences impacting the South Asian community across Central and Southwestern Ontario.

Caledon OPP played a key role in the December 2025 joint investigative task force involving Peel Regional Police, the OPP, and the Canada Border Services Agency. Together, the task force has been actively investigating extortion-related offences across multiple jurisdictions.

Throughout March and April 2026, OPP investigators worked seamlessly alongside the PRP task force, demonstrating the strength of collaboration and shared resolve among our policing partners.

Caledon OPP investigators are also working closely with law enforcement partners in British Columbia and Alberta, where similar extortion activity has been identified. To date, OPP investigators have laid charges against 12 individuals, resulting in a total of 42 criminal offences. This is in addition to the 17 individuals charged as part of the recent PRP investigation into the organized crime group highlighted during PRP's media conference.

"The Ontario Provincial Police is proud to stand with our partners as a member of the Extortion Task Force. These crimes are having a serious impact on communities across central and western Ontario, with those responsible showing no regard for the fear and harm they cause. While progress has been made, we remain committed to working with our partners to identify, locate and hold these individuals accountable to ensure that residents feel safe in their communities."
— Chief Superintendent Karen Gonneau, Investigation and Support Bureau, Ontario Provincial Police



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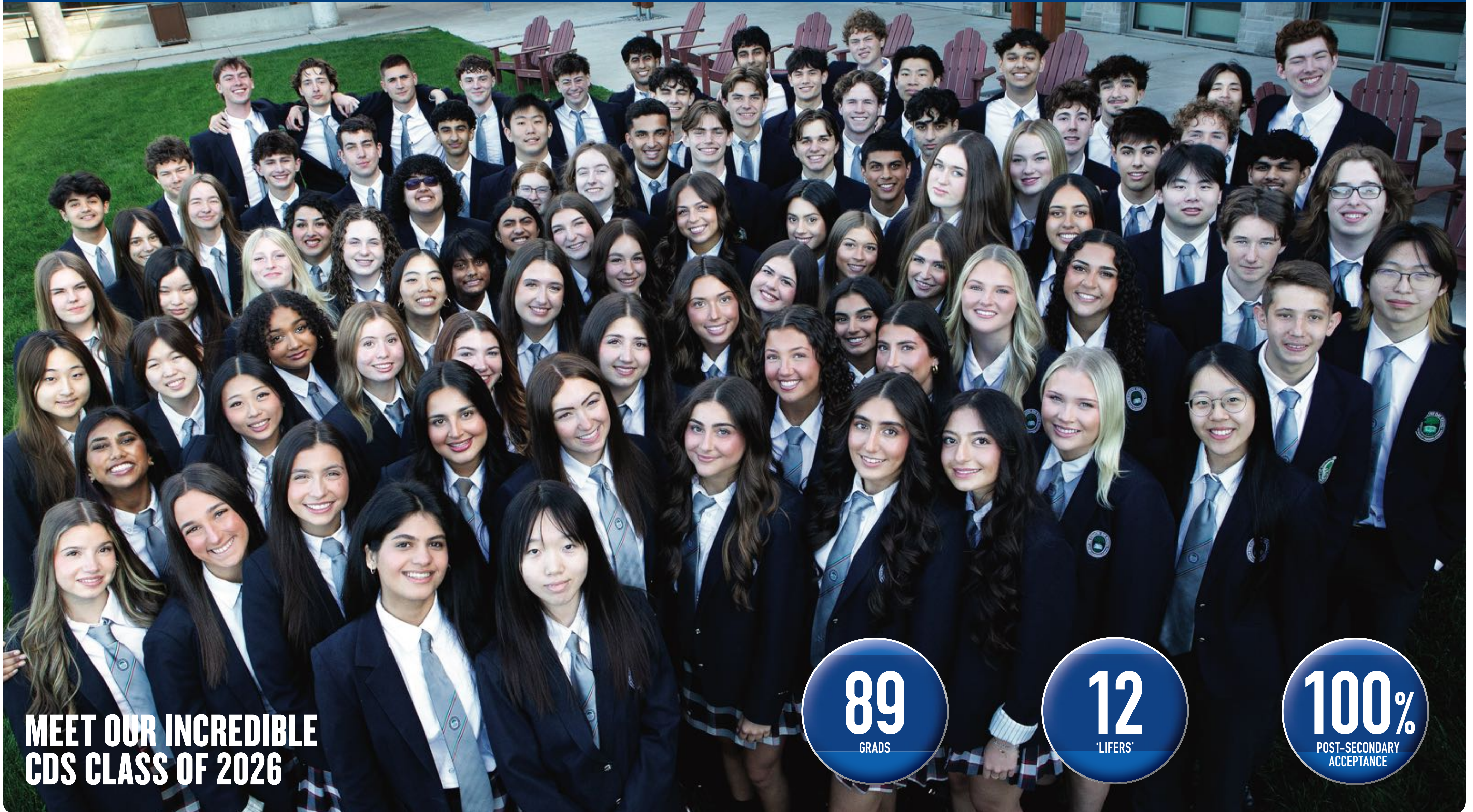
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Klara Gong
Nico Hammer
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ARTS & CULTURE

Fourth-annual Tapestry of Art and Music hits all the Right Notes



(LEFT) The artwork was paired with the accompanying voices of Sonus Voices. (RIGHT) Janet (left) and Andie (right) Trépanier.

PHOTOS BY RILEY MURPHY

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

More than 140 people packed the Alton Mill Arts Centre outdoor Annex on June 7 to celebrate the 4th Annual Tapestry of Art and Music event hosted by Headwaters Arts.

The art show and sale/fundraising event brings together music and art in an afternoon, with attendees able to take in local music and the work of over 80 Ontario artists.

The artists each donated a piece of artwork, done on a 6 x 6 canvas, and at the event, they were hung together on boards to create a large tapestry of Ontario artwork.

Each artist brought their own interpretation and inspiration to their own pieces.

Paired with the artwork this year were the tones of Sonus Voices, a low-voice ensemble based in Hamilton.

Sonus Voices performed numerous songs, even including their renditions of familiar favourites such as “Drunken Sailor” and “For Good” from Wicked.

They presented on various themes, and even cross-genre, which they said was an ode to the crossing of arts in the day’s event.

Nancy Kluger, Chair of the Headwaters Arts Events Committee, took the time that day to thank all the artists and musicians who participated.

“I want to thank all the talented artists. We ask that they donate their time and their talent to provide the smallest of canvas, 6x6, but they managed to create some of the most delightful original artwork that you are seeing here today,” said Kluger.

For some, the “smallest of canvas” provides an interesting challenge.

Mono artist Darlene Hostrawser is a fabric weaver, and bringing her work to a small canvas creates an interesting task.

She was one of the 86 artists participating this year, and this was her third year participating for Hostrawser.

“I like this event because it forces me to do work outside of my realm,” said Hostrawser.

The work that she submitted for the event, she describes as an ode to the people who continue to knit, crochet, weave, and participate in the “lost arts” that have value since industrialization.

It also, she says, represents the passing of this art to younger generations.

One of the largest parts of the event itself was the fundraising aspect, donations and purchases of the artwork went back into Headwaters Arts to ensure they can continue supporting local art for years to come, as well as helping to fund their Headwaters Arts Scholarship Fund.

By the end of the event, they were able to raise approximately \$3,570 from art sales and donations, and Headwaters Arts added they also received \$5,000 from the Town’s Caledon Council Community Golf Tournament (CCGT) grant to help run the event.

Each donation to Headwaters Arts also entered you into their raffle, this year featuring a reproduction of local beloved artist Cory Trépanier’s work, “Cape Hotham,” Cornwallis Island, Nunavut.

The reproduction was donated by his family, Janet and Andie Trépanier, who attended the event that day.

Andie Trépanier said they were grateful to be able to share a piece that represented all of Cory’s passions, and encouraged the audience that day to tap into their own creative self.

Andie added that Headwaters Arts was a huge support for them at the beginning of their own artistic career.

“When I headed to my very first education with the Humber College jazz program, Headwaters was the one who supported me with their grant, and it made a world of a difference in my education. Now, I’m a painter myself and a lot of that inspiration and support has come from the community, it comes from Headwaters Arts, much like my father found,” says Andie.

As the day continued, pieces were purchased, refreshments were savoured, and, most of all, local music and art were recognized and enjoyed by all.




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COMMUNITY events

This column is provided as a free public service to non-profit organizations to announce up-coming events. Please contact the Caledon Citizen by calling (905) 857-6626 or emailing admin@caledoncitizen.com if you wish to have an announcement published.

The Caledon Breast Cancer Support Group will be holding its monthly meeting on June 17, 2026
Details as follows:
 Date: June 17, 2026
 Place: Kinsmen Club in Bolton
 Address: 35 Chapel St, Bolton (Hwy 50 & King Intersection)
 Time: 7:00 pm-9:00 pm
 Price: No Charge
 The CBCF support group is for women who have been newly diagnosed with breast cancer, who are going through their journey or who have had breast cancer. Female caregivers are welcome!
 Please contact Rosa Raso at rasodazzle@outlook.com for any further information.
 You don't have to be alone in this Journey!

Strawberry Social - Thursday, June 18, 2026
 The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton is having an Afternoon Strawberry Social from 2 to 4 pm. Enjoy homemade cake with fresh strawberries and cream, tea, coffee and entertainment. This is a free event sponsored by the Town of Caledon. Limited spaces available. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to reserve your seats.

“Fit For Life” Wellness Expo - Friday, June 19, 2026
 Golden Transitions will be hosting the “Fit for Life” Wellness Expo at the Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton on Friday, June 19, 2026 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Admission is free.
 Discover an event focused on health, wellness and lifestyle solutions tailored for today’s mature adults. Enjoy a free lunch, a variety of local exhibitors, guest speakers, program demonstrations, prizes and much more! Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to reserve your seats.

Yard, Craft & Vendor Sale
 Caledon East United Church, 6046 Old Church Road. Prices you can't resist. Come early! Check out the Bake Sale and BBQ too! June 20. 9am-1pm. This is an outdoor event, rain or shine! Want to sell your items or be a vendor? Contact Grace at 905-584-9974.
 Tables are \$25.00.

Canadian Multiculturalism Day – Saturday, June 27, 2026
 Join us at the Caledon Seniors Centre at 7 Rotarian Way, Bolton on Saturday, June 27 from 10 AM to 3 PM as we celebrate cultures from around the world with music, dance, activities and delicious food!
 This is a free event!

Coffee and Community are Brewing at the Buckstown Café!
 Join us for this free program hosted by Palgrave United Community Kitchen (PUCK), for conversation, cards or table games, and community connection. Enjoy free coffee, tea, cold drinks, and light snacks.
 When: Every Tuesday
 Time: Drop in between 10 am – 12 pm
 Cost: FREE!
 Where: 34 Pine Ave., Palgrave
 The café is a fully accessible, secular space located within the Palgrave United Church. For more information: info@palgravekitchen.org or www.palgravekitchen.org

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Caledon ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT **Saturday, JUNE 13, 2026** **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & VENDORS MARKET**

3pm - 11pm
Humber River Centre
 DOWNTOWN BOLTON



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Ben Reeves (b. 1969), *Foragers* (detail), 2022. Purchased through the generous support of Karen and Christopher McCleave, McMichael Canadian Art Collection

McMichael

Bianchi-Nelson delivers powerful operatic and dramatic bilingual performance in Neapolitan Ice Cream: The Musical

BY JIM STEWART

Fans of Italian music enjoyed 21 timeless songs, drama aficionados witnessed masterful storytelling about the immigrant experience, and the cultural celebration was capped with three-flavor gelato on Sunday at the Humber River Centre in Bolton.

The matinee performance of Neapolitan Ice Cream: The Musical featured a virtuoso performance by Reilly Bianchi-Nelson that was befitting the Four Seasons Centre or venerable Massey Hall in downtown Toronto.

If you closed your eyes and fell into the mid-afternoon soaring tones of Bianchi-Nelson, it was easy to imagine yourself at Teatro all Scala in Milan.

But we weren't in Milan and we weren't in Toronto.

Instead, 150 fortunate attendees savored the operatic stylings and poignant narration of Bianchi-Nelson in a repurposed fire-hall in downtown Bolton. Remarkably and miraculously, the acoustics were terrific—kudos to the talented sound and video crew from MF Media Inc – and the sold-out venue was transformed into an intimate setting in which the moving story of Caterina was sung in Italian and narrated in English—showcasing Bianchi-Nelson's versatility as a polished singer and compelling actress.

Her on-stage comfort with graceful guitarist Tonino Chiodo and her chemistry with dynamic accordionist Matti Pulkki [their eyes met in four perfectly-synced, full-stop endings to songs] were evident through the production.

Neapolitan Ice Cream is a quick-moving story—more than 20 public domain songs, narrative fragments, and sepia-toned or black and white visual backdrops are woven together skillfully and concisely to tell a tale about betrayal, perseverance, and reinvention.

The show, performed in two acts, ran for just over an hour and left the audience wanting more.

Producer and director Loredana Cunti described her charming stage show as “my musical love letter to the immigrant experience, and a celebration of reinvention, resilience, and the ability to find joy in a song or in a single scoop of ice cream.”

Indeed, the audience was treated to a single-serving package of Neapolitan Gelato after the show—a delicious exclamation point to an equally-delectable performance by a gifted so-



REILLY BIANCHI-NELSON

PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

prano.

Attendees fell in love with the dynamic Bianchi-Nelson immediately as her vocal range covered “O Sole Mio,” she enlivened Puccini’s “O Mio Babbino Caro,” and her expressive storytelling abilities allowed her to carry the story on her own as the bilingual narrator and protagonist.

The powerhouse performer—clad in a shimmering azure gown befitting the aquatic setting and themes—captured our attention with her glistening, far-away blue eyes which gazed out in the distance during her truncated voyage from Naples to Scotland instead of Naples to North America.

The spotlight shifts from Bianchi-Nelson only once during the production.

At the darkest point of Caterina’s betrayal by the villainous and duplicitous Captain Salvatore, special guest performer Bruno Monardo emerges from the front row, moves centre stage, and the 17-year-old wonderkind injects much-needed energy to the closing segment of Act 1. The animated accordionist got the audience to clap along with his show-stopping tunes and set the stage for Bianchi-Nelson’s seamless return to sing “Passione” and “Core ‘Ngrato” as she comes to terms with being jilted by Giovanni who has

chosen not to depart from his newfound life in Canada and leaves Caterina to fend for herself in Scotland.

As Caterina gets acclimated to the gruff Gaelic culture, she mutters, “We weren’t in the Promised Land. We were in Scotland.” With “Scotland the Brave” serving as a backdrop and being delivered by Pulkki on the accordion, the protagonist enters into a relationship with Jacques who gifts her with wild strawberries. These simple gifts become a significant ingredient in the three-flavored ice cream she crafts from her nonna’s cocoa from Naples, and rich Scottish cream. With employment secured in a café in town and the three-flavored gelato well-received by the locals, Bianchi-Nelson’s character delivers “O Marinariello” (The Fisherman). The lyrics “Vicin’ o mare, facimm’ amore” (By the sea, let’s be lovers) foreshadow the protagonist admitting that she’s become “a Neapolitan mother chasing freckled children around.”

After settling into domestic life, Bianchi-Nelson’s character delivers a soaring rendition of “I Te Vurria Vasa” (“I long to kiss you”) to show that she’s still hooked on Giovanni but is settling on Jacques the kind-hearted fisherman and good father. Her final stirring operatic perfor-

mance in Act 2 sets up the jaunty closing number “Funiculi Funicula.”

After the show and during the rush by audience members for strawberry, vanilla, and chocolate gelato, the fourth-generation Italo-Canadian offered insights about delivering such a command performance in an intimate, “truck theatre” setting like the Humber River Centre.

“I’ve done a lot of smaller productions and there’s always a collective energy in the audience. There’s a feeling that you’re singing to each person and you’re sensing the deep feelings they’re experiencing as they connect to the songs and story. I could feel that as the audience was clearly moved—some were tearing up—as their stories were told.”

Bianchi-Nelson credited the sound crew for the show’s production quality and her comfort on stage.

“Every venue requires some changes operationally—but today I felt very comfortable with the new headset and not having to hold a microphone allowed me to act more freely. We’ve made little changes after our performances so far. Today, there was no reverb so everything felt clear.”

The audience clearly got what they signed up for—including the ice cream—and many were re-living their own trans-Atlantic passages. Bianchi-Nelson’s performance was felt deeply by Richmond Hill resident Tina Mancini who travelled to Bolton to experience a tale near and dear to her heart and connect to her Neapolitan roots.

“It was meaningful in so many ways. I grew up with those songs in Naples. Mom and Dad loved the Neapolitan songs—we would dance to all of them. My dad taught us to dance so we could dance at weddings. Events would reinforce our culture.”

Mancini was moved by the production and thought the highlight was “Reilly’s delivery of ‘O Surdato ‘Nnamurato.’ When she sings about her first love—her first and last love—in ‘Soldier in Love,’ she fought so hard to come to Canada and be with Giovanni and yet she created hope for herself in another country. I also loved that you’re celebrating folklore, especially the importance of music to our culture. It’s the immigrant experience, the hardships, the dreams. We wanted a better life and, in 1966, we arrived in Canada with \$500 in our pocket and a few of our possessions. I’ll never forget that.”



NEWS

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

New CO Alarm Requirements In Effect

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless, deadly gas.

As of January 1, 2026, all homes must have:

- A carbon monoxide alarm adjacent to every sleeping area
- A carbon monoxide alarm on every storey without a sleeping area

Full details and safety tips: caledon.ca/carbonmonoxide



Municipal, Agricultural and Community Grants



Is your not-for-profit community organization planning an event or working on a new project that will enrich the lives of Caledon residents? Does it take place between June and December 2026? If so, apply today for the spring intake of our Municipal, Agricultural and Community Grants!

Applications close on Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

Visit Caledon.ca/CommunityActionFund for full details and to apply!



Here's your chance to nominate an athlete, builder or team for the 2027 Caledon Sport Hall of Fame inductee class.

Deadline for nominations is Sunday, July 12, 2026.

To nominate someone today, visit Caledon.ca/CSHOF.

The three categories for induction are: Athlete, Builder and Team. Nominees for all categories, to qualify for induction must:

- Be born in Caledon or;
- Maintained residency in Caledon for a minimum five consecutive years; or
- Was raised or spent their formative years in Caledon.

National Indigenous History Month

June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, a time to learn about unique cultures and traditions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Several events will take place throughout the Town of Caledon during this special time:

- Flag Raising and Four Colours Drum Performance for National Indigenous History Month June 15 at 11:30 a.m., at Town Hall
- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Chief Margaret Sault speaks at Caledon Day opening ceremony – June 20 at 6:15 p.m. – Caledon East Community Complex
- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations (MCFN) at Caledon Day – MCFN will be featured in the TD Vendor Zone.
- National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21
- Mississaugas of the Credit, Ajetance Treaty, No. 19 information boards – Providing information on the history of this treaty. On display all month at the Caledon East Community Complex, Southfields Community Centre and the Town Hall atrium.

These events are about celebrating and learning about Indigenous histories, traditions, and cultures. Residents are encouraged to join and take part in these important celebrations.



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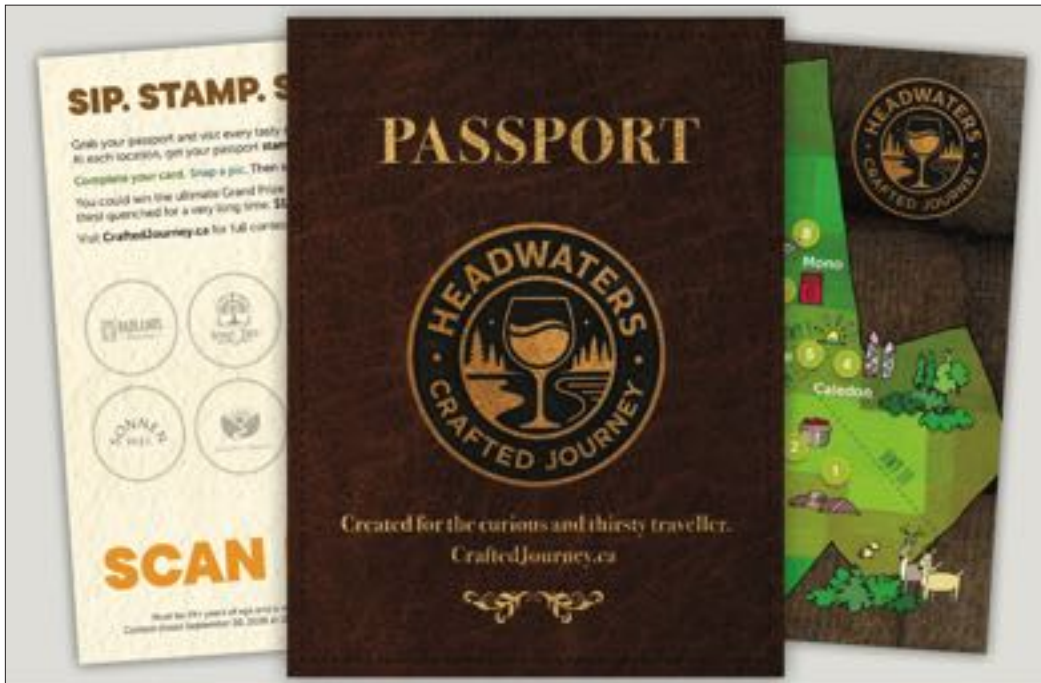
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BUSINESS



YOUR SOURCE FOR BUSINESS IN CALEDON

Headwaters Region gets a new tourism campaign centred on local breweries



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY JOSHUA DRAKES

The Headwaters region is introducing a new tourism initiative designed to showcase its growing craft beverage scene while driving traffic into local downtowns.

The Headwaters Crafted Journey, curated by Central Counties Tourism, brings together eight breweries, cideries, and wineries across Caledon, Erin, and Dufferin County in a passport-style experience that rewards exploration over time.

Chuck Thibeault, Executive Director of Central Counties Tourism, said that the journey begins with a passport.

“It looks like an actual passport,” he said. “As the person travels from brewery to brewery, they get a stamp in their passport, and when they’ve completed and gone to each of the stops, they take a picture of their stamped passport and upload it to a contest page, and then in the fall, we’ll be doing a random draw to give away some prize packages, which are gift certificates for each of the producers.”

The format is designed to benefit both visitors and locals. For out-of-town guests, the journey provides a clear, curated path through the region, turning a day trip into a broader tour of small towns, countryside,

and main streets.

Rather than travelling for a single attraction, visitors are given multiple reasons to stay longer, spend more, and return. For residents, the passport offers a structured way to discover breweries and attractions they may not have tried before, keeping more spending within the local economy. Every community working together is the best way to keep people visiting the wider region, Thibeault said.

“When it comes to destination development and tourism, the visitors don’t see walls between the towns,” he said. “We don’t want people to do everything in a day. We want them to come back multiple times, to explore these initial businesses, and explore the historic downtowns across the Headwaters as well. It’s a great opportunity to get people to spend more time and more money in each of the communities that Headwaters has, because now, you’re not just coming up here for one thing, you have a list, there’s so many places to see.”

Thibeault said that the initiative is a true collaboration between townships and businesses. He added that only by pooling resources together to promote the region can they punch above their weight. Most contacts were receptive to the idea, so getting organized didn’t pose a large challenge.

“It really wasn’t a hard sale to get everyone on board,” he said. “The idea is to get visitors to come up, go to the wineries, breweries, and cideries, but then also go and explore the downtowns, which is exactly what the businesses and the commu-

nities want as well. It’s a great journey to follow and win-win for everyone.”

The initiative grew out of a discussion between tourism leaders and local craft producers about how to better link individual businesses with regional destination marketing.

“I was talking with Phil from GoodLot,” Thibeault said. “We were wondering about what we could do to help (drive up tourism), and he actually proposed that we could start a route for people to take.”

From that conversation, a route-based passport was proposed. One organizer took on the task of rallying producers, while another approached municipalities and business improvement areas for financial support.

“I said, if you can get all the producers, all the different businesses involved, I’ll reach out to the communities, the municipalities, the BIAs. Phil went to work, and he got everyone on board from all eight different businesses.”

Participating businesses now include Adamo Estate Winery, Badlands Brewing Company, Caledon Hills Brewing Co., GoodLot Farmstead Brewing Co., Grand Valley Brewery, Mono Centre Brewing, Sonnen Hill Brewing and Spirit Tree Estate Cidery.

With eight producers and several municipalities across the region on board, the program is off to a strong start with plans to review results in the fall and explore expansion for future seasons.

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MAYBERRY HILL
 Grand Valley

Town appoints new Director, Policy and Strategic Planning

CONTRIBUTED

The Town of Caledon announces the appointment of Adrian Cammaert as Director, Policy and Strategic Planning effective Monday, June 15, 2026.

Adrian brings more than 20 years of progressive experience in municipal planning and private consulting, with a strong track record of leading complex development, policy and growth management initiatives.

Most recently, Adrian served as Manager of Planning Services with the Town of Newmarket, where he led multidisciplinary teams across development planning, long-range policy and cultural heritage. In this role, he held a key leadership role in advancing transit-supportive growth, guiding major planning projects, and supporting Council priorities during a period of significant change and transition.

“Adrian is a highly respected planning leader with experience in delivering results in complex municipal environments,” said Eric Lucic, Commissioner of Planning and Development & Chief Planner. “His expertise in growth management, policy development and team leadership will be invaluable as Caledon continues to grow and plan for its future.”

A Registered Professional Planner (RPP) and Full Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP), Adrian also holds a Certified Municipal Manager (CMM III) designation. His professional and community involvement includes leadership roles in industry organizations and participation in provincial planning forums focused on emerging issues and innovation in the profession.

“I’m excited to join the Town of Caledon at such an important time,” said Cammaert. “Caledon is a community with a strong identity and significant opportunities ahead. I look forward to working with Council, staff and the community to support responsible growth and deliver planning outcomes that reflect the Town’s vision.”

As Director, Policy and Strategic Planning, Adrian will oversee the Town’s policy planning services, including long-range policy planning, Future Caledon, heritage planning, the Housing Accelerator Fund program and the GIS services, helping guide Caledon’s growth in alignment with Council’s strategic priorities.

Russo formally launches Mayoral bid in Bolton

Continued from FRONT

He added residents want safer roads, traffic addressed, infrastructure, protection of sensitive lands, better enforcement, and more.

Russo says the current term of Council has “not been easy” and there have been several challenges.

“Caledon is carrying the weight of poor planning decisions made in years past,” he said, adding that too many decisions were made without “enough regard to the long-term impacts to the residents, to our farmland, to our roads, to safety, and to the quality of life.”

“We cannot change yesterday, but we can decide to do it better the next time around,” he said. “I am running for Mayor because I believe Caledon needs steady, practical experienced leadership for what comes next.”

Russo said he’s built and operated small businesses for over 20 years, noting he “knows what it means to manage costs, serve people, create jobs, deal with red tape, and keep going when things get dif-

ficult.”

He said as Mayor, he would make Caledon “a better place for small businesses and entrepreneurs.”

“We need a Town Hall that says, ‘How can I help you do this properly?’, not come back in six months and we’ll look at it again,” said Russo.

He said bringing 25 years of experience in real estate, property management, construction supervision, and planning-related work is key to future planning decisions and more.

For Russo, reflecting on the campaign launch, he says it represented “a unity of volunteers and support,” and he felt he wanted to make a statement: “We’re here as a united Caledon.”

Although he notes many of the attendees were from the Bolton area, he made a “conscious effort” to have attendees from all areas of Caledon.

To see the many supporters gathered around him that evening, he said, was “very humbling.”

To those in the room that evening, Russo says he had a few main messages.

The first being, “One Caledon.”

“I really want to stress that everybody in every hamlet, every village in Caledon is important,” says Russo. “I want to stress that’s going to be one of my key goals.”

The other message, he notes, concerns Caledon’s expected growth.

“Caledon is changing and it’s not something that I’m necessarily fearful of, it’s something that I feel is important to address but if we do things right, if we do things with thoughtful processes, and that’s what I want to kind of stress is I feel I’m the one that’s capable of doing it because of some of my skill sets and some of my past history and I want people to understand that we’re going to protect Caledon as we go through this process,” he says.

Russo adds he wants to maintain Caledon’s character.

“That’s the reason my family moved here, and I’m raising my family here, it’s no different than anyone else is, we love the Caledon we have and we need to make sure we maintain that character as we go through the growing pains of going to the next level,” says Russo.

Caledon’s future growth, he says, is not just one of the reasons he decided to launch his mayoral campaign, but why he ran for Regional Councillor initially.

“It’s important that people recognize, and the people that are actually running recognize, the task at hand,” says Russo.

As a “greenfield growth community,” he says, mandated growth is coming, and it also needs to be done for Caledon’s own sustainability.

One of his messages, he adds, is infrastructure before growth, as well as “protecting our 80 per cent by growing sustainably and intelligently in our 20 per cent.”

Russo says the urban boundary is where Caledon should grow “intelligently, sustainably and with the proper tools to grow sustainably.”

He says it is about protecting “Caledon through change,” including safer roads, stronger enforcement, protecting rural character, village identity, farmland, water, sensitive lands, respecting taxpayers, and supporting responsible local jobs and small businesses.

His first platform commitment, he announced, is not to use strong-mayor powers.

“I don’t honestly feel it was used that often in our municipality compared to other municipalities but it was contentious, I don’t speak ill about it, I just feel that if and when I’m there my job is to work with the Councillors that are elected to represent their areas and their voices matter so it’s not about me potentially governing above them, it’s governing with them,” says Russo.

Looking ahead to the coming months, he says he is most looking forward to getting to the doors of residents and businesses.

Russo says the information he hears from residents will shape his “final game plan.”

He notes he has ideas for his platform that he will begin slowly rolling out, but he is looking forward to learning which issues people are voicing.

“What excites me is getting out to people, getting out to the doors, and getting out to the community and understanding that it’s what we collectively feel is important, is what becomes important,” says Russo.

“I make one promise to you all,” Russo said towards the end of his speech. “When you call, when you reach out, I’ll be there.”

Public Notice Peel Region

Notice of Public Information Centre No. 1 Schedule C Class Environmental Assessment

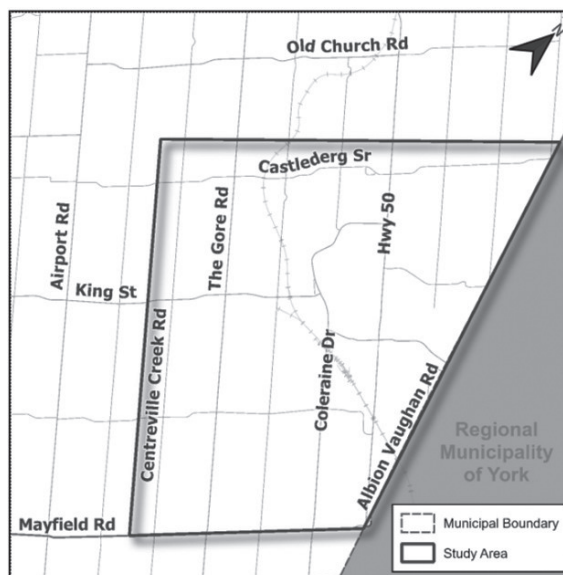
Bolton Zone 7 Water Elevated Storage and Transmission Mains Class EA

Background:

Peel Region has initiated the **Bolton Zone 7 Water Elevated Storage and Transmission Mains Schedule ‘C’ Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA)**.

This study will examine the need for two new water towers (elevated water storage tanks) for storage and the large underground water pipes that connect them to the existing system. This planning work is being completed through a MCEA which is a provincially regulated process that helps identify the best solution while considering the environment, technical requirements, costs, and community input.

As part of this process, the study will confirm how future water service should be provided in Bolton, including areas that will rely on new water pressure zones – specifically Pressure Zones 7B and 7E. Pressure zones are a standard water system planning tool used to manage water pressure across different elevations and neighbourhoods, and do not affect drinking water quality. The study area is shown in **Figure 1**.



Process:

This study follows the 2024 process for a Schedule ‘C’ MCEA project, which includes:

- Meaningful Indigenous Community engagement.
- Public and interested stakeholder consultation and engagement.
- Identification of projects that may be exempt from the MCEA process (as per the recent 2024 amendment) through the Archaeological Screening Process (ASP).
- Development, evaluation, and selection of preferred locations for two elevated water storage tanks, including transmission main route (alignment) options, impact assessment and mitigation measures.
- Development, evaluation, and selection of the preferred water construction methodology, including shaft locations.

Your Input Is Important:

Three (3) Public Information Centres (PICs) will be held at key points during the study to present findings from the MCEA study and provide opportunities to give feedback to the project team.

PIC No. 1 will be conducted in-person and will introduce the project and study process, present the study’s problem/opportunity statement and objectives, outline the Municipal Class EA and consultation approach, describe the study area and key study considerations, while inviting input from the public. Information on how to submit questions and provide feedback will also be available on the project website. Details for PIC No. 1 are provided below:

PIC No. 1:

Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Format: In-Person

Location: Humber River Centre – Gathering Space (28 Ann Street Bolton, ON L7E 1B9)

Command Period Closing: Friday, July 24, 2026

PIC No. 2 is anticipated for late Fall 2026 and will be finalized and published at a later date.

Contact the Team:

To be added to the mailing list or to receive further information about the study, please contact:

Jared Acosta

Project Manager, Environmental Assessments & Studies
Peel Region
Jared.acosta@peelregion.ca

Chris Campbell, MTP, MCIP, RPP, MRTPI

Vice President, Vaughan Branch
GEI Consulting Canada Ltd.
ChCampbell@geiconsultants.com



For more information on this study, please visit the Region’s website at: www.peelregion.ca/public-works/environmental-assessments/#current (Caledon) or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone.

The Region of Peel is committed to ensuring that all Regional services, programs, and facilities are inclusive and accessible. Please contact the Project Manager if you need any accommodations to provide comments and/or feedback for this study.

This notice was first issued on June 11, 2026

CAFFI Community Network and Town host Spring Inclusion Summit on the Pathway to Adulthood

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Caledon and the CAFFI Community Network (CCN) came together to host their closing spring inclusion summit, focusing on recent successes and the pathway to adulthood for young adults with differing abilities.

CCN is a growing local group of caregivers that advocates for intentional partnerships in the journey for right fit activities and programs for young adults with differing abilities in Caledon.

Their focus has been on the transition to adulthood for these individuals, and relying on community experts to come together, to “shape a transition of belonging, purpose and priority.”

Over the past year, the CCN has presented and advocated to solve for the growing need for daytime and after-school programs for individuals aged 18 and older, including those with multiple exceptionalities, given the challenges in options remain limited and include barriers to participation for many.

Collectively, through the experienced learnings, the group says they realized that there is a demonstrated need for skills development that we can achieve, recreation that can incorporate life skills, social integration, and community belonging within PA days, summer, and ultimately, aim through these learnings to achieve a more specialized program locally that complements school board and municipal services.

Mike Brunetto with CCN added there is a difference between equality and equity, and equity “involves allocating the right resources on individual needs with tailored tools and techniques for a person centred approach.”

At the summit, the Town of Caledon presented on its inclusive recreation services and how it is applying its learnings.

Brunetto says that at the network, they are so grateful for their partnership and to be working with the Town’s Parks, Recreation and Culture department.

“We are immensely grateful for our passionate stakeholders who were able to attend, and the many who are willing to continue to make a difference with us”

CCN also used the summit to discuss the importance of building a true inclusive community.

“Our families who require augmented support must push harder. We are the primary force that influences change, but we cannot achieve change alone,” said Brunetto.

“We needed a voice, we needed to be recognized and valued in order for us to make changes,” he adds.



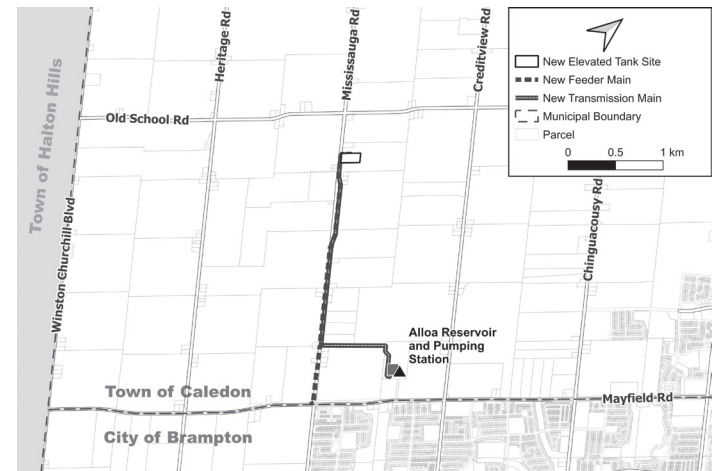
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Public Notice Peel Region

NOTICE OF STUDY COMPLETION - SCHEDULE C CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT West Caledon Storage Facility and Transmission Mains

Background:

Peel Region completed the **2020 Water and Wastewater Master Plan** for the Lake-based Systems, which identified the need to construct a new pressure zone 7W water storage and transmission main infrastructure for West Caledon. This Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) was initiated to support this recommendation by developing, evaluating, and selecting a preferred storage facility and transmission main route to service the projected growth within the study area to 2051.



Preferred design concept:

The preferred design concept evaluation and selection was presented during the third and final in-person Public Information Centre (PIC) on October 7th, 2025. The preferred design concept includes the following components:

- New elevated storage tank located on a property along Mississauga Road, approximately 500 m south of Old School Road.
- New transmission main from the Alloo Pumping Station and Reservoir (1278 Mayfield Road), through a new easement north of Mayfield Road to Mississauga Road, where it extends north to the new elevated storage tank site.
- New feeder main from the elevated storage tank site, extending south on Mississauga Road to connect into the existing water system at Mayfield Road and Mississauga Road.

Your Input Is Important:

Your input is important to the Class EA process. You are invited to review the draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) and provide the Project Team with any feedback and comments. This report summarizes the study, including the development and evaluation of alternative strategies, the proposed implementation plan, and the associated consultation with agencies, the public, and Indigenous Communities through each phase of the Class EA process.

Environmental Study Report:

The draft ESR will be available for a 30-day public review starting June 11 and ending on July 10, 2026. All comments or requests must be received within the 30-day public review period. To view the report, use the link below, or scan the QR Code with your smartphone:
West Caledon Schedule C Class EA Project



Peel Region is committed to ensuring that all Peel services, programs, and facilities are inclusive and accessible. Please contact the Project Manager if you need any accommodations to provide comments and/or feedback for this study.

Comment/ request submissions:

If you wish to submit comments and/or concerns on this study, please contact the Project Manager listed below. In addition, a request may be made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for a Section 16 order requiring a higher level of study (i.e. an individual/ comprehensive EA approval) or that conditions be imposed (e.g. further studies), only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Indigenous and treaty rights. Requests on other grounds will not be considered.

Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested (request for additional conditions or a request for an individual/ comprehensive environmental assessment), how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on Indigenous and treaty rights, and any information in support of the statements in the request. This will ensure that the ministry is able to efficiently begin reviewing the request.

Ministry Contacts:

The request should include the requester’s contact information and full name, and should be sent in writing or by email to both:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation & Parks
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Minister.MECP@ontario.ca

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

Please visit the ministry’s website for more information on requests for orders under section 16 of the Environmental Assessment Act at: www.ontario.ca/page/classenvironmental-assessments-part-ii-order

Project Manager Contact:

Sogol Bandehali, MSc. P.Eng., PMP
Acting Program Manager, Peel Region
10 Peel Centre Drive, 4th Floor, Suite A, Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
C: 437-216-7251
sogol.bandehali@peelregion.ca

To be added to the mailing list or for general inquiries, please contact:
ZZG-WestCaledonEA@peelregion.ca

For more information on the project, visit the Project Website by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by using the link
peelregion.ca/public-works/environmental-assessments/caledon/west-caledon-storage-facility.asp



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17th annual Caledon Day fast approaching with full schedule of fun

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Day is coming back to the Caledon East Community Complex on June 20, and it's jam-packed with more performances and fun than ever before.

On the Main Stage, the event will officially be kicked off with greetings from Mayor Groves and Members of Council at 6:15, followed shortly after by the 2026 Civic Awards Program award winners.

But the day itself begins long before, at 2 p.m., when families and residents alike can enjoy the numerous activities and vendors on site that day.

The return of the Tim Horton's Community Zone will include activities such as inflatables and a mechanical bull, golf simulator, archery, a bubble zone, a combat challenge with Caledon Fire, a Green Corner with Energy & Environment and EcoCaledon, children's activities with BrightStart, and much more.

In the community zone, there will also be a community stage, where attendees can check out performances from 2:30 pm to 5:55 pm, featuring artists such as The Canadiana Band and the Grand River Band.

Brand new this year is the Food Performer Zone, which offers five local performances throughout the afternoon from 2:50 pm to 6 pm.

Back this year is the "Touch a Truck Zone," where the Town of Caledon's Public Works department will have three pieces of equipment on display for the public to check out.

Dozens of vendors are returning to the TD Vendor Zone, including service, product, food, and alcohol vendors.

When it comes to alcohol, the Town of Caledon reminds you to LYOB, "Leave Your Beverage at Home," as outside alco-

hol is not permitted at events in Caledon.

And, it provides you with the opportunity to support local and visit the Cheers Caledon Zone, featuring vendors Caledon Hills Brewing Co, Goodlot Farmstead Brewing Co, Pommies, Royal Ambassador, Sonnen Hill Brewing, and Spirit Tree.

Leading up to the big night of music, DJ Dave Puzzo will take the main stage.

Then, a Taylor Swift Tribute starring Rikki Lee Wilson takes the stage at 7:15 p.m, followed by this year's Headliner, Brett Kissel.

Kissel's performance will begin at 8:15 pm, followed shortly after by the annual fireworks show, scheduled for 9:45 pm.

There are many ways to attend this year's Caledon Day. Free shuttle buses will run again this year between 2:00 pm and 10:00 pm from both the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness (CCRW) and Southfields Community Centre.

At the CCRW, there will be two buses each on separate 30-minute rotations, and 2 buses on separate 45-minute rotations at Southfields Community Centre.

Parking will be available at Robert F. Hall and St. Cornelius, and a shuttle will run between both schools and the event site from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm.

There is no paid parking at Town Hall.

For those planning to bike into the event, trailway access will be closed from 12 noon to 11:00 pm on Caledon Day. Cyclists can use the main entrance to access the event grounds and use the free bike valet.

The Town of Caledon encourages you to bring a refillable water bottle, a blanket or chairs, as picnic tables will be limited, and proper sun and outdoor protection, all the ingredients for the recipe to success for a great Caledon Day!

A Sweet Saturday at Caledon Butter Tart Festival



Gotta Luv ButterTarts packed 50 vendors into the Caledon East Community Complex on May 30 for the return of the Caledon Butter Tart Festival.

PHOTOS BY RILEY MURPHY

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Bolton Brewers' undefeated streak reaches four with decisive wins over Lisle and Clarksburg

Brewers christen Taylor Fields with 11-7 victory over Astros and thump Blues 12-6 at North Hill

BY JIM STEWART

The Bolton Brewers' bats have gotten as hot as the June weather.

The Brew Crew has pushed 39 runs across the plate in their last five games, which includes an anomalous 0-0 tie in Game 1 of Sunday's rescheduled doubleheader versus the Clarksburg Blues at North Hill Park. In Game 2, the Bolton bats were back to normal in a 12-6 win over the Blues.

The Brewers played their inaugural game at Taylor Fields on Monday night and christened the sparkling new, two-diamond complex with an 11-7 win over the Lisle Astros.

On Monday night versus the Astros, Bolton took their first at-bats at the new ballpark and promptly put seven runs on the board to stake Brewers' starter Matteo Stothers to a 7-0 first inning lead.

Bolton Head Coach Mike Wallace said he was pleased with how his team got out of the gate against Lisle.

"It doesn't get much better than that. We've been hitting the ball really well and we were overdue. Ben Sterritt hit the hardest ball I've ever seen—it was a laser six feet high and it hit the top of the fence. It sparked the biggest inning of the season."

Coach Wallace also complimented the performance of his starter who subdued the Astros on four days' rest after surrendering just two runs in five innings on Thursday night in Bolton's 7-5 win over Caledon.

"Matteo's definitely the workhorse of the staff. He's going to take the ball and

give us quality innings. If we continue to provide the D and continue to cut back our errors, we'll get our fair share of wins with Matteo on the mound because he puts the ball in play so well. We only expected four innings out of him on Monday night, and we got six. He was all over the strike zone—showing great command of his pitches and deserved the W."

The Brewers' starters have been getting run support in four of the club's last five games and Coach Wallace attributed the heated-up offence to getting reps in the better weather that has swept across Central Ontario in late-May and early-June.

"The lack of Spring ball really put us behind—now they look comfortable in the box, we're definitely a hitting team, and Ben Sterritt and Jack Larmer are really stepping up as our early season offensive leaders. They contributed to big offensive innings over the last two weeks."

Following the same bludgeoning strategy used to defeat Lisle on Monday night, the Brewers piled it on early in Game 2 versus the Blues on Sunday afternoon—plating five runs in the first and four runs in the second to build a 9-0 lead en-route to a 12-6 victory.

The Brewers' hitters vented their frustration in the second game of the doubleheader after being kept off the scoreboard in Game 1 in a 0-0 tie.

In Game 2, Bolton's well-balanced attack was led by Amir Juarez with two hits. Carter Burnside scored three runs and Luke Witty and Carson Burns plated two times each in the six-run victory.

Brewers' starter Vic Moguel threw three scoreless innings, Paul Cota tossed two innings of middle relief and got the W, and Stothers earned the two-inning save—striking out three Blues to preserve the club's fourth win of the season.

In Game 1's 0-0 pitching duel, Brewers starter Charlie Hughes made his debut on the bump and threw three scoreless innings. The ever-reliable Stothers kept the



Bolton Brewers baserunner Amir Juarez steals third versus Clarksburg in a 0 – 0 Game 1 tie with the Blues. Juarez led the Brewers' offence with two hits in Bolton's 12 – 6 win in Game 2 of the doubleheader at North Hill Park on Sunday.

PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

Blues off the scoreboard for the remaining four innings to preserve the shutout and earn a point for the club in the NDBL Senior Division standings.

With the win and tie versus Clarksburg, the Brewers evened their regular season record to 4-4-1, moved into a tie for fifth place with the Orillia Majors in the twelve-team NDBL Senior Division, and

extended their undefeated streak to four games to level off a rough start to the 2026 season.

A mid-season test for the red-hot Brewers will take place on Sunday, June 14, when they visit the first-place, undefeated New Lowell Knights who are the reigning league champs.

First pitch will be at 1 p.m.

Orangeville Otters capture Team Challenge title at Huronia Region Long Course meet

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville Otters Swim Club captured the Huronia Region Long Course Team Challenge title during competition held at Brock University in St. Catharines from May 28 to 31.

A total of 48 Otters swimmers travelled to compete in the annual event, which brings together clubs from across Huronia Region for a unique team competition focused on building partnerships, friendships, and team spirit. A total of 10 clubs participated in the event, with teams paired together in a head-to-head challenge format.

Partnered with the Lindsay Lightning Bolts Swim Club, the Otters face the Barrie Trojan Swim Club in the team challenge competition.

The Otters and Lightning Bolts combined for 4,257 points to win the Team Challenge title.

They posted the highest point total of all teams at the meet.

Several Otters swimmers posted outstanding results.

In the 12 & Under division, Rowan Young, 10, was the club's top male with 109 points.

Ava Yardley led the female standings with 145 points.

In the 13 & Over division, Wesley Halls, 16, earned 136 points to lead the Otters in that division.

Kaitlin Malec, 17, contributed 130 points as the club's top email point scorer.

The weekend also featured an impressive number of record-breaking performances.

Gracie Chapman set a new Huronia Region record in the 10 & Under girls 50m breaststroke.

Oyona Egbert, 12, added her name to the record books by breaking the Huronia Region records in both the 11-12 girls 1,500m freestyle and 50m breaststroke events.

The Otters also enjoyed tremendous success in the relay events.

The 11-12 Girls team of Ava Yardley, Qyona Egbert, Julia Noronha, and Jemma Harrison established new Huronia Region records in both the 4x100m Medley Relay and 4x100m Freestyle Relay.

The 10 & Under boys team of Owen Reyes, Callen Norris, Lawson Noronha, and Rowan Young also broke Huronia Region records in both the 4x100m Medley Relay and 4x100m Freestyle Relay.

Head Coach Sam Kuntz was especially proud of the way the team competed and supported one another throughout the weekend.

"I couldn't be prouder of the way our swimmers competed this weekend," said Kuntz. "We saw athletes step up in every session, support one another, and race with confidence. From personal bests and record-breaking swims to outstanding team spirit, this group demonstrated what the Orangeville Otters are all about. The effort, commitment, and positive attitude shown by our swimmers throughout the season were on full display in St. Catharines."

The Otters would like to thank coaches, volunteers, and families for their continued support and dedication throughout the season.

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Blues, jazz and 40,000 people pack downtown Orangeville for annual festival weekend

BY SAM ODROWSKI

About 40,000 people flowed through downtown Orangeville this past weekend as the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival once again turned the town into a multi-stage celebration of music, food and local culture — despite financial headwinds behind the scenes.

Festival founder and artistic director Larry Kurtz said the lineup of over 40 bands struck a strong balance between blues and jazz, with fans able to enjoy JUNO-award-winning and nominated acts across all three stages from June 5 to 7.

“Overall, I felt it went great. We had lots of happy, smiling people throughout the downtown,” Kurtz said. “The headliners on Friday, Saturday, Sunday — all three acts were excellent.”

He added, “It was a thrill for me personally to have Emily-Claire Barlow come and play jazz for us on the main stage. I feel she’s one of the greatest jazz singers in the country.”

Other headliners included Alex Pangman & Her Alleycats, Blackburn Brothers, Miss Emily and Paul James Band.

Beyond the main stages, much of the festival’s impact could be felt in the streets of downtown Orangeville itself, where crowds spilled well beyond the performance areas and into the core’s shops, patios and sidewalks.

Kurtz said that atmosphere is an intentional part of how the festival is designed, with programming structured to keep activity flowing across multiple spaces rather than centred on a single stage.

“It’s a showcase for the beautiful downtown, for sure,” he said. “Showing us at our best, where there’s tons to do and it’s very welcoming.”

Even after scheduled performances wrapped on the street in the evening, the energy didn’t dissipate.

Kurtz said that the pause in programming is deliberate, creating a transition point between outdoor stages and continued performances in the park.

“We plan it that the music wraps up on the street,” he said. “We’re hoping people come into the park, where it continues to 11 p.m.”

But what stood out most, he said, was how



FESTIVAL WEEKEND RETURNS: Musicians perform and a crowd enjoys the Blues Cruise during the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival from June 5 to 7. The three-day festival featured dozens of blues and jazz acts across multiple stages and drew thousands of people into downtown Orangeville for a weekend of music, food and community celebration.

PHOTO BY BILL TREMBLAY

the downtown continued to function as a gathering place even without live music as a focal point. On Saturday night, he described seeing Broadway filled wall-to-wall with people simply lingering, talking and moving through the core.

“At 8 p.m. when everything had ended on the street, it was totally packed as far as the eye could see — from Wellington all the way up First Street,” Kurtz said. “No music happening, no entertainment, just people milling about and socializing.”

He said that kind of gathering captures what the festival has become over its 20-plus-year history: not just a series of performances, but a shared space where the town itself becomes part of the experience.

“It was amazing to see,” he said. “They’re

entertaining themselves just by hanging out and talking and enjoying it.”

Still, Kurtz said the festival’s success on the ground comes alongside mounting financial pressure behind the scenes. While attendance held steady at around 40,000 people, he said, reduced government funding has created a noticeable gap in the organization’s budget this year.

He pointed to a significant drop in grant support, including the loss of a \$50,000 Experience Ontario grant that the festival received the previous year. Heritage funding was also cut nearly in half, dropping from about \$23,000 to \$14,000. Kurtz said those reductions have forced organizers to reassess how the festival is financed moving forward.

Despite those challenges, Kurtz said the

festival continues to rely on a combination of community support, sponsorship and volunteer effort to keep operations running. He noted that while local backing from the town and Orangeville BIA remains strong, replacing lost funding at higher levels of government is an ongoing concern.

“The financing of the festival... we don’t know the balance sheet yet,” he said. “We have to work on that and find other alternatives.”

He added that organizers are already exploring new fundraising approaches, including expanding a 50/50 draw introduced this year to generate additional revenue.

For Kurtz, the music may draw the crowds, but it’s the shared social experience that defines the festival’s success.

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- JULY 24TH** – Giffin Apple Farm Sale
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- AUG 7TH** – Gas and Oil / Toy / Sports Memorabilia Auction
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- SEPT 11TH** - Antiques, Collectibles & Quality Household Items.




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Ice River is currently looking for ten (10) Process Control & Machine Operator(s), Beverage Processing (NOC 94140) to join our team. You will be working at our Shelburne facility, located at 108 Prentice Drive, Shelburne, ON, L9V 3N5.

Position Summary
The Process Control & Machine Operator plays a critical role in our manufacturing process, responsible for ensuring the efficient and safe operation of bottling processing equipment. This role involves operating and maintaining specialized multi-function process control bottling machinery, monitoring production processes, and adhering to quality standards to ensure the consistent bottling of beverages. This position requires a strong focus on safety, attention to detail, ability to interpret technical instructions to operate sophisticated equipment and the ability to work effectively in a fast-paced environment.

- This is a full-time position, based on 88 hours of work per 2-week cycle, with occasional overtime.
- At this time, we are only looking for individuals who can work a 12-hour rotating continental shift, including nights and weekends.
- Salary \$23.00 per hour, with possibility of bonus; 10 days vacation plus extended medical, dental, and long-term disability insurance & participation in our retirement savings plan.
- Inbound transportation costs for out of province applicants
- Completion of high school required.
- Some post-secondary education required as the position requires the ability to read and understand technical instructions and sophisticated Husky equipment user manuals.
- Two years plastics injection or bottling line experience required.
- Previous heavy equipment experience preferred.
- Youth applicants are welcome to apply.

To view a comprehensive overview of the position, please go to <https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/irss/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/4103>
Interested candidates please send a copy of your resume and cover letter referencing Req#317 to recruiting@iceriversprings.com or write to:
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Shelburne, ON
L9V 3N5

LIVE AUCTION SALE

for the estate of **Bob & Lois Priester**
Saturday June 20th, 10:00am

33 Townline, Orangeville ON – From the corner of Hwy 10 & Broadway come west to the first set of lights (at the Townline). Turn south & follow for 800m to the sale on the south side of the road. **OR** From Hwy 109 at the west side of Orangeville take Riddell Rd (by-pass) to the lights at the townline. Then turn east & go 1km to next set of lights. Then turn left onto continuation of the townline, for 1.7km to sale. Directly across from Princess Margaret School.

** THERE IS NO PARKING ALLOWED ON TOWNLINE**
Please park on Alexander St. or Wellington St.

Car & Motorhome (both sold As Is): 1996 Olds cutlass Supreme, 168,620km, blue, grey cloth int, 4 dr; 1989 Winnebago Warrior, Ford Econoline 350, 7.5 L engine, solar power system, sm woodstove, A/C works, new tires, awning, 126,000km. **Shop Items:** C-H air compressor; Generac 5500 Wheelhorse generator; Troybilt gas leaf blower/vac; shovels/rakes, etc; A/C gauges; battery charger; old car/truck radios - var makes; ladders - alum & wood; hedge trimmer; car ramps; pickup ramps; Stihl 038AV chainsaw; Homelite XL-1 chainsaw - not running; (2) floor jacks; lots of tools; 350 Chev engine - from C10 pickup; lots to see here! **HH & Antiques(A):** Horse bells (A); flatback cupboard (A); milk bottles (A); 11 cu ft chest freezer; (2) #5 pickle crocks(A); metal toys(V); window A/C unit; meat saw; ladies roller skates; wood crates (V); wood hockey game - Munro Games (V); 3-way cold drink dispenser, tin ice area, in lg wood cupboard (A); copper backpack yard sprayer (A); gas grill (V); Paramount 4 burner BBQ; alum patio furniture; (3) bicycles; round side table; X-mas & Halloween décor; wood dining room table & 6 chairs; hutch; buffet; qty Orangeville hockey patches (V); milk glass oil lamp (A); wood kitchen table & 4 chairs; (2) violins/fiddles, Geo Heini guitar; records - 33's, CDs, mostly country; (2) dressers (A); steel tube bed - double (A); bedroom suite; chair; microwave; doll crib (V); inversion table; steam engine tin toy (V); (2) handmade quilts (V); lg qty salt & pepper sets; set of dishes; asst cups, saucers, etc; QE2 related newspapers & clippings; horse pictures & décor; qty of (V & A) clocks & much much more!

Lunch Booth & Washroom Available **Preview: Friday June 19, 1-6pm**
Terms & Conditions: Cash or Cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner and/or Auctioneer will not be held responsible for accident or loss on day of sale. All items are sold "As Is". All verbal announcements on day of sale take precedence over written ads.
Items Information please call: Ron Priester (416) 881-6476
Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com
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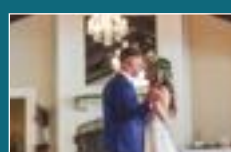

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- Vendors in the Park
- Bouncy Castle
- Storefront Contest
- Children's Activities
- Theme: Canada Proud
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- \$100 Gift Card
- Community Pilates Class
- Prize Draw
- Taekwondo Demonstration

- Trophy for Best of Show
- Prize for BIA's Choice
- Door Prizes
- RC Legion 50/50 Draw

FREE ADMISSION
 Registration 10 a.m.
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IF YOU WANT to keep drinking, that's your business. **IF YOU WANT** to stop drinking, that's our business. Call Alcoholics Anonymous Hot Line, 1-866-715-0005. www.aanorthhaltonerin.org.

DRUG PROBLEM? We've been there, we can help! Please refer to georgianheartlandna.org for a complete list of Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Call anytime 519-215-0761.

ARE YOU A WOMAN living with abuse? For safety, emergency shelter, and counselling call Family Transition Place, (519)941-HELP or 1-800-265-9178.

FOR INFORMATION regarding **HEART and STROKE**, call Dori Ebel (519)941-1865 or 1-800-360-1557.

IF YOU or a FAMILY MEMBER are struggling with gambling, Gamblers Anonymous is there to HELP. Call: 1(855) 222-5542 or visit www.gatoronto.ca.

ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUPS meet monthly for spousal & family support. Call (519) 941-1221.

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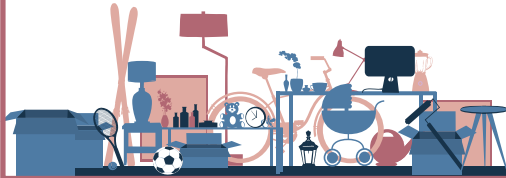
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MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE

Date: June 13 • **Time:** 8:00 am
Locations: 123 Valleyview Court & 113 Valleyview Court, Bolton

Come browse a variety of items including household goods garage and hand tools camping gear and antiques miscellaneous items and much more!

Rain date: Sunday, June 14 at 8:00 am
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Georgetown/Caledon ALS Canada Walk to End ALS raises more than \$70,000

BY RILEY MURPHY
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Starting on June 6, and continuing throughout ALS Awareness Month in June, ALS Canada is hosting 22 in-person Walk events across Ontario - and it all began at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area this past weekend.

More than 150 people came out to the walk this year, and raised approximately over \$70,000.

ALS Canada shares that each year, about 1,000 Canadians are diagnosed with ALS, and another 1,000 lose their lives to the disease.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, otherwise known as ALS, is an "unrelenting and currently terminal disease," the organization adds.

"The cost of living with ALS can exceed \$250,000, placing a significant burden on the person diagnosed, caregivers, and families. Funds raised through the Walk to End ALS help meet this growing need by funding research, information, and services for people affected by ALS," says the organization.

Disha Mehta, Regional Manager for the Ontario Chapter of the ALS Society of Canada, says at their organization, they "know how much people affected by ALS value the Walk to End ALS, and it's more than just a fundraiser."

"It builds community and connects people, and we are committed to continuing to honour this experience, and also create

opportunities for the ALS community to come together to show their support at a special event and demonstrate that we are all part of something bigger," says Mehta.

Not only that, but she says the day is also about honouring those who have lost their lives to ALS, "their family members still walk in honor of those people, it's just a very touching and very empowering event for us," says Mehta.

The funding from each Walk to End ALS, Mehta explains, goes back into research, care, and advocacy, as well as their local community services.

"We, as a community lead, when we go to different people, we support them to resource navigation through this diagnosis and everything, so all these funds that we have raised are very essential in helping the ALS Society of Canada continue to help people living with ALS, and ensure that a strong pipeline of funding for the most promising Canadian ALS research continues to grow," says Mehta.

Although there were many new teams this year, Mehta added that many past teams and families returned to support the walk.

Throughout June, ALS Canada will host walks, with a virtual participation option for people who prefer to join independently or cannot attend a local event.

ALS Canada is continuing to push towards their province-wide fundraising goal of \$2.1 million, supporting research, advocacy efforts and community-based care services for nearly 4,000 Canadians currently living with ALS.

IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGES

Continued from Page A4

The accused individuals are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date to answer to the charges.

In addition, the individuals' driver's licences were suspended, and the vehicles were impounded.

"The Dufferin OPP reminds motorists that alcohol and speed are a deadly combination. Plan ahead if you are consuming alcohol or drugs. Use a designated driver, taxi, rideshare, public transit, or arrange to stay overnight. Any amount of alcohol or drugs can impair your judgment and reaction time. In a split second, poor decisions can result in tragedy.

"Members of the Dufferin OPP remain committed to public safety through proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities."

FATAL COLLISION IN MONO

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of

the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), along with local EMS and fire services, responded to a serious single motor vehicle collision in the Town of Mono.

"On May 20, 2026, shortly after 12:30 p.m., emergency crews were dispatched to the area of 3rd Line EHS, just south of 5 Sideroad, for a single motor vehicle collision," say Police. "The vehicle involved was a passenger van towing a small utility trailer at the time of the incident. The driver, an adult male, was transported to a local hospital and subsequently airlifted to a Toronto-area trauma centre due to the severity of his injuries.

"As a result of the collision, on May 22, 2026, the driver an 81-year-old male from Mono was pronounced deceased."

Members of the OPP Technical Collision Investigation (TCI) unit attended the scene to assist with the investigation.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information or dashcam footage related to the incident is asked to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit a tip online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

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



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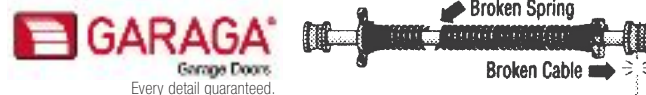
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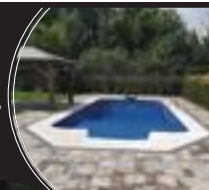
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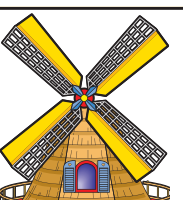


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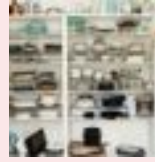


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PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

A family's fight for Accessibility, Inclusion and Care

Continued from Page A1

"The number is incredible, but what means even more is seeing you all here today," said Natasha. "Jahan's walk was never about raising awareness or just raising funds, but it's about bringing people together, creating these memories and showing what happens when a community rallies around a child, and the cause is for life."

"Today for us is not just about Duchenne, it is about Jahan," she continued. "It is about the incredible community that refuses to let our family walk this road alone. A community that reminds us that while we may not be able to change our diagnosis today, we can change how our family and their child experiences this journey. Today is about love, resilience, and belonging."

For Jahan, he says the Team J walk is an even better day than his birthday.

But the Chahal families' advocacy does not end at the Team J walk; it hits closer to home this year.

Beginning his Grade 9 year at Mayfield Secondary School at the start of this school year, Natasha says Jahan had high hopes for the year ahead.

They had always dreamed of him attending

Mayfield and hadn't ever considered sending him anywhere else.

But, earlier this year, Jahan had a life-changing fall, resulting in his loss of the ability to walk.

For him, this meant changing many of the things he had looked forward to for years at his new school, such as gym class.

Since the year began, Natasha says she's been advocating for Jahan to have a consistent Educational Assistant for the year, adding that it's important that the EA and Jahan form a relationship.

But since his fall, it has been more crucial than ever to get someone who can truly care, she says.

"You don't realize how inaccessible the world is until someone you love needs accessibility," said Natasha.

Throughout the year, the Chahal family has had to buy new supports for their cars and home and is now looking to buy a more accessible home, doing all that while advocating for Jahan at school.

Natasha says she spoke to the school about finding someone consistent, not someone who "forgets about him numerous times a day."

"He's declining in his position, and they're not offering the support that Canadians are supposed to

get," said Natasha. "This is accessibility."

Since their advocacy began, Jahan has been assigned to an EA he had previously worked with, and for the new year, a specific EA has been hired for the role.

She added that Grade Nine is already a significant change for any student, but on top of that, her son has to worry about things that other people never have to.

Despite the ongoing advocacy, Natasha said many of the aspects of the school have been great, and Jahan truly enjoys the experiences and the opportunities at Mayfield.

For her, she says she just wants her son to enjoy school without fear or worries.

The Team J walk, she said, is one of the few times she sees the worry melt off his face, unlike the constant pressure and nervousness he experiences in environments such as school.

The walk has transformed into more than the two could have ever imagined, with relatives and friends flying down across the country to participate.

But for their family, it's about advocating for the people more than the fundraising, and it will con-

tinue to be for years to come.

"Due to privacy and confidentiality, the school board will not comment on the specific services and supports we provide a student," said the Peel District School Board in a statement. "Peel District School Board provides a comprehensive range of supports and services for students, as outlined in its Special Education Plan. These supports are designed to respond to students' individual strengths and needs through ongoing collaboration with families and school teams. Educational Assistants are allocated based on identified personal care and safety needs, which are collaboratively determined with input from families/caregivers and PDSB staff."

"In addition, supports include access to Professional Support Services Personnel (PSSP), such as Occupational Therapists, who can assess and assign specialized equipment and make program and environmental recommendations to support accessible learning environments across all curricular areas. Together, school and central staff work collaboratively to create inclusive, supportive, and responsive learning environments, for all students."

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