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Team Bridget gathers for a rainy team photo prior to the ride.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

"We ride so other people don't have to go through this"

Jack Ride Brings hundreds of riders out for Youth Mental Health

BY RILEY MURPHY
 LOCAL JOURNALISM
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

Rain or shine, support for youth mental health stands strong in Caledon. This was made clear this past weekend as hundreds of riders and supporters attended the 2026 Jack Ride at the Caledon East Community Complex.

Jack Ride is an annual event run by Jack.org

that raises funds for critical mental health education and prevention programs for young Canadians in every province and territory. Eric Windeler and Sandra Hanington founded "The Jack Project" after the tragic loss of their son Jack, a first-year student at Queen's University, and since 2010, the Jack Ride has been advocating for Youth Mental Health and supporting the systems that support it. As riders gathered around on the rainy Saturday morning, President and CEO of Jack.org


Michael Braithwaite said he "couldn't believe it." "[It is] such a show for young people and their mental health when that number of riders came out at 8 a.m. in the rain to ride 100k in 4 hours, [it] shows the dedication of our supporters, it's amazing to see," said Braithwaite, estimating more than 200 people arrived for the 100 km and 75 km routes, and hundreds more for the remaining 50, 45, 25, and 10km.

Continued on Page A14

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Trust invites residents to explore Province's past this Ontario Day

BY RILEY MURPHY
 LOCAL JOURNALISM
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

As Ontario Day approaches, the Ontario Heritage Trust is inviting residents to explore the province's rich past through a newly launched digital historical timeline and free admission to the Cheltenham Badlands on June 1. To mark the day, the Ontario Heritage Trust is inviting Ontarians to utilize a new digital historical timeline through the launch of Milestones in Ontario's History.



John Ecker, MPP Sylvia Jones, Graham McGregor, and Ontario Heritage Trust members Chair of Fundraising and Marketing Patricia Hellingman and Vice-Chair Steve Pellegrini raise the Ontario Flag at the Cheltenham Badlands.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Continued on Page A8

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Best Brains Centre Director Kanv Bhandari.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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“The Best Advantage” Best Brains Learning Centre Opens in Bolton

BY RILEY MURPHY
 LOCAL JOURNALISM
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you, like many families, have spent a night or two huddled around the kitchen table, desperately hoping to figure out an answer, and only wishing you could call the teacher, the newest learning centre in Bolton may have the perfect solution for you.

Best Brains Learning Centre has officially opened in Downtown Bolton and invites you to enroll your students to “give the best advantage to the child.”

Kanv Bhandari, Centre Director, says at Best Brains Learning Centre, they have four pillars of methodology: “Teach, Perceive, Practice, Perfect.”

Students will sit with an Ontario Certified Teacher (OCT), who will teach the concept of the week, the student will practice with the teacher, and, from there, perceive and practice the concept from daily homework that will be given out for the week until they return for their next class.

The Centre operates with one day in the classroom and six days at home for practice.

Growing up in Brampton, Bhandari’s parents were both educators, and to him, he knows the power education can bring.

He moved into the education industry himself, working as a private tutor until a business opportunity struck him.

“I always wanted to pursue [education] as a business, and that’s what motivated me,” says Bhandari. “Bolton [being] the

very nice, tight-knit community as it is, and everyone’s been so nice, the opportunity struck me for opening a franchise over there, I just took it with a blink of an eye.”

Best Brains Learning Centre Bolton officially held its grand opening in April and has been working to serve the community since.

At the Centre, they work to align their curriculum with the school curriculum, and students can access courses in Coding, Math, English and Abacus.

Offering courses for ages 3 to 14, they hold all the courses under one roof with a low student-to-teacher ratio, ensuring personalized instruction.

With students doing much of their work from home, Best Brains Learning Centre offers a 24/7 helpline – the Best Brain Support Line.

Students can access online support with a live teacher unlimited times, get quick help, and continue with their homework.

Bhandari says setting up a new student with the Centre is very simple.

The student will take a placement test to see where they will be placed within the program, and then conversations will be held about how the child will be instructed, contract-free.

With summertime around the corner, the centre wants to ensure it can help students make the most of their time academically.

To view pricing, or register for classes visit bestbrains.com/ca-en/bolton-central.

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Sponsored by Passion: Caledon sailor Phillips races solo across Atlantic in Offshore Circuit



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Robert Phillips is currently offshore racing thousands of miles across the globe, competing at the highest levels of solo ocean racing, and representing Canada in grueling days-long competitions, but it all began back in his hometown of Caledon.

“I think it all started with a very small moment,” says Phillips.

One day, he and his dad were driving the back roads of Caledon when they stumbled upon a broken sailboat someone had left on the side of the road.

With his dad, an engineer, ready for a challenge, they strapped the boat to the hood of the car and spent the day with fiberglass and Kevlar.

“We patched it up, made our own little mast for it, our own sail and took it out on the reservoir in Orangeville, and then something just kind of clicked,” says Phillips. “I fell in love with gliding across the water and since then it’s been sort of finding my own way back to that early childhood passion and it’s just grown and grown.”

Phillips attended university for mineral exploration, which led him into a career as an exploration geologist. Through his job, he found his way back to his passion.

He got his commercial captain’s license and started driving commercial vessels, and from there, he says it led him to the “purest form of getting around the ocean,” sailing.

From there, he moved from sailing to sailing at extreme speeds.

He credits many good mentors along the way who saw his passion for being on the water.

“I think it’s a pathway that’s really hard for most people to go down, even those who have a connection to the sea and a racing community, because it takes a lot of

showing up,” says Phillips.

Phillips is currently the only Canadian racing in the Classe Mini 6.50 fleet, a highly competitive circuit of various offshore races on tiny 6.5-meter sailboats.

He describes these mini-races as pinnacle events across the Atlantic that represent one of the “most intense and adventurous offshore sailing challenges in the world.”

Sailors race solo across 4,000 miles of open ocean in a 21-foot boat designed for speed, resilience, and innovation.

“It’s an endurance sport, so a lot of it is just finding your boundaries and then pushing them. It takes a lot of passion because there’s days the motivation is there, and there’s a lot of days there isn’t. It’s just knowing what the feeling of crossing a finish line is like and pushing yourself closer to it,” he adds.

Despite the surprisingly small and spartan design of the boats, he says they endure massive waves, changing weather, and long periods of isolation.

“The race pushes human endurance, navigational skills, and mental toughness to the limits, often serving as a proving ground for future sailing legends,” says Phillips. “It is a raw, stripped-down test of seamanship where strategy, courage, and survival instincts matter as much as speed across thousands of nautical miles of an everchanging playing field.”

These races, he notes, push many limits: no connection to the outside world, no phone, sleeping for only 10 minutes at a time, and isolation for up to 30 days.

He adds it takes a lot of motivation and endurance to complete.

“It becomes a big game of who can go the fastest and who can make the best tactical decisions with the weather, the wind, the waves, the currents,” he says. “It’s like playing chess, but on the biggest field on Earth, in an environment where if you

make a mistake, you could die.”

“Through all the hardship you find these incredible moments of clarity and peace and connection with your surroundings. When you focus on nothing but using the elements to go as fast as you can on the biggest playing field in the world, you develop this sort of connection.”

He says despite the sport being incredibly challenging, the satisfaction of completing it feels “incredible.”

“In our day-to-day jobs, especially being a geologist, I spend a lot of time making spreadsheets and maps and plans and budgets. In that kind of setting, you don’t really get to experience enough real, true moments where you can feel fear, you can feel joy. There’s a real feeling that comes from it,” says Phillips.

“There’s just something amazing about pushing yourself way beyond where you thought your limits were and achieving

something through that. You come back to land standing a little taller, knowing you can really take anything on.”

In the past, Phillips competed in the 2021 First Globe 40, a circumnavigation race around the world.

“I think that really lit the fire for me, okay, I’ve done this on someone else’s campaign. I think it’s time to do things my way, fund my own boat, and just see how fast I can go,” he recounts.

Currently preparing for his next race in France as part of the circuit, Phillips is able to look back on what he has accomplished thus far and what he has done to make it happen.

Not only is Phillips the only Canadian taking part, but he is the only one competing who is currently unsponsored.

Continued on Page B5



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COLLISIONS ON HIGHWAY 10

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a serious collision on Highway 10.

“On May 24, 2026, at approximately 6:45 p.m., officers responded to a three-vehicle collision on Highway 10 at King Street, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “As a result of the collision, three occupants from one of the involved vehicles were transported to hospital suffering from non-life-threatening injuries.”

Highway 10 at King Street was closed for several hours while the OPP Traffic Incident Management & Enforcement (TIME) Team assisted with the investigation.

Following the investigation, Peter Wardi, 23, of Etobicoke, was charged with:

- Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm;
- Red light - fail to stop;
- Drive motor vehicle, no currently validated permit.

The charges have not been proven.

An earlier collision on Highway 10 is also the subject of an investigation.

“On May 22, 2026, at approximately 2:00 p.m., officers responded to a three-vehicle collision on Highway 10, between Escarpment Side Road and Travelled Road, in the Town of Caledon. A com-

mercial motor vehicle was stopped on the shoulder of the road, alongside another stationary passenger vehicle. During this time, an approaching commercial motor vehicle struck the stationary vehicles in the rear, resulting in serious, but non-life-threatening injuries to one of the involved parties.

Highway 10 between Charleston Side Road and Olde Base Line Road was closed for several hours while the investigation was underway.

The investigations are ongoing. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

If you are affected by this incident or witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838 or online at www.cdvs.ca.

SERIOUS COLLISION ON HIGHWAY 9

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a serious collision on Highway 9.

“On May 25, 2026, at approximately 12:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle colli-

sion on Highway 9, between Kennedy Road and Heart Lake Road, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “As a result of the collision, one driver was transported to hospital suffering from serious, but non-life-threatening injuries.”

Highway 9 between Highway 10 and Airport Road was closed for several hours while the OPP Traffic Incident Management & Enforcement (TIME) Team assisted with the investigation.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

If you are affected by this incident or witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838 or online at www.cdvs.ca.

KING STREET CRASH

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a collision on King Street in Bolton.

“On May 21, 2026, at approximately 8:00 a.m., officers responded to a single vehicle collision involving a school bus and two pedestrians on King Street East at Humber Lea Road, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “As a result of the collision, two pedestrians were transported to hospital suffering from minor and life-threatening injuries, respectively. No injuries were reported by the occupants of the school bus.”

King Street East between James Street and John Street was closed for several hours while the OPP Traffic Incident Management & Enforcement (TIME) Team assisted with the investigation.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

If you are affected by this incident or witnessed the collision and wish to speak to victim services, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services can be reached at 905-951-3838.

CONTRACTOR AND VEHICLE SALES SCAM WARNING

The Central Region Headquarters of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is advising community members to be cautious of two separate types of scams currently impacting residents across the province: door-to-door contractor scams and the emerging “dirty oil” vehicle sale scam.

Contractor / Paving Scams:

As warmer weather approaches, the OPP continues to receive reports of individuals going door-to-door offering to pave driveways, repair roofs, or complete other home improvement projects. These offers are often presented as a limited-time or “one-day-only” deal.

The individuals may appear legitimate, sometimes using flyers, websites or claiming affiliation with a known company. However, they often use false names, fake identification and unmarked vehicles. Victims are typically asked for cash up front and are left with poor-quality work, incomplete repairs, or no service at all. These scams commonly occur between April and October and often go unreported.

“Dirty Oil” Vehicle Scam:

Police are also warning the public about a newer fraud targeting individuals selling vehicles privately online.

In this scam, suspects pose as potential buyers and arrange to view a vehicle. During the interaction, one suspect may distract the seller while another tampers with the vehicle by placing oil in the engine compartment, tailpipe, or other areas.

When the vehicle is started or driven, the oil creates smoke and the appearance of serious mechanical failure. The suspects then pressure the seller into accepting a significantly reduced price, claiming the vehicle is no longer worth its original value. In some reported cases, victims have lost thousands of dollars after being convinced their vehicle had suddenly developed major issues.

Prevention Tips:

The OPP reminds residents that these scams can be avoided by taking simple precautions:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is;
- Be cautious of unsolicited offers for home repairs or services;
- Take your time and do not feel pressured into making immediate decisions;
- Always research businesses and review contracts carefully before agreeing to any work;
- Avoid paying cash up front for home repairs;
- When selling a vehicle, meet in a safe, public location and consider bringing another trusted person with you;
- Do not allow strangers to distract you or access your vehicle unsupervised;
- If something feels wrong, trust your instincts and end the interaction.

The OPP urges residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. If you believe you have been targeted by a scam, contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca.

For more information on how to recognize and protect yourself from scams, visit www.ontario.ca/page/identify-scam-or-fraud

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														19. Singer King Cole	52. Indigenous person of Thailand	11. Designs anew
														20. Short-tailed marten	53. Combined	13. City associated with Jesus
														22. One point east (clockwise) of due north	55. Container	15. Cool!
														23. The god of the underworld in ancient mythology	56. Expression of satisfaction	17. Bank employee
														25. Dirt	57. Thou	18. Central nervous system
														26. Superconducting super collider	58. Return a favor	21. Standardized piece of text
														27. Not good	63. Go over once more	23. A type of fever
28. A way to sink	65. Removed	24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal														
30. Unwell	66. “Silence of the ___”	27. Threaten persistently														
31. Follow orders	67. Comedian Rogen	29. Aspirations														
33. Deep ravine	CLUES DOWN	32. Baby's eating														
35. Perfumery practice	1. Children's game	34. Actress Thurman														
37. Indian film director Sultan	2. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)	35. Turn into bone														
		36. One who saves you														
		39. Consume														
		40. Swiss river														
		43. A part of a river where the current is very fast														
		44. Categories														
		46. Expressed amazement														
		47. It's important in respiration (abbr.)														
		49. Greek war dance														
		51. Bland, semi-liquid food														
		54. Regard in a specified way														
		59. Taxi														
		60. Naturally occurring solid material														
		61. Feline														
		62. Post-burning residue														
		64. Elevated railroad														

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



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BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Superpowers and Full Circle Moments

If you could pick one superpower, just one out of an entire menu, one that's only limited to the barriers of your own imagination, what would you pick?

While a magic wand to wave in a new era of world peace and usher in a reality where everybody is fed and nobody is unhoused would be the ideal, superpowers aren't necessarily required to achieve those goals; just equity, effort, determination and collaboration, albeit in a scale that can often be hard to fathom.

It doesn't take superpowers, just existing power pointed in the right direction.

No, I'm talking about the powers that are truly out of this world.

Maybe it's the power to take to the skies and fly like a bird, or the ability to teleport at will to wherever you want in the blink of an eye. Perhaps its super-human strength to save someone from a perilous situation, the ability to move with the speed of lightning, or even x-ray vision to see beyond what was previously impenetrable.

While the ability to fly, teleport, or get things done in a fraction of the time would be pretty cool, I've always had the same answer: time travel.

I'm not sure when the very concept of time travel first captured my imagination, but it's been there for as long as I can remember. Being able to bear witness to pivotal moments in our collective history, however large or small the incident, and see what really happened versus the generally accepted narrative has always been intriguing – after all, history is almost invariably written by the victors.

But it doesn't have to be the big stuff.

Growing up in Newmarket, the first house I called home was one of about two dozen built on former farmland in the equally former village of Bogartown, and there were some remnants of the agricultural operation that was 20, 50, 100 years before a going concern – if you knew where to look. I always tried to imagine what the farm looked like when it was in full swing, the people who worked the land, and the impact it might have had on the surrounding area.

This fascination didn't subside when we moved.

With my mom, we moved westward in Newmarket to a newer subdivision in the former village of Armitage – and, at that time, there were actually some landmarks, since demolished or moved, that were part of one of this area's most bustling early settlements. With my dad, we eventually moved to a pre-Victorian home with a woman's tombstone in the back yard. As you can imagine, both provided no shortage of fuel for my imagination.

Eventually, I learned there were these groovy places called museums that one could go and actually learn about all this and more – with no time travel required, no matter how cool that might be.

It didn't take much time to exhaust Newmarket's Elman W. Campbell Museum as my school was only a short walk away and a regular destination for field trips, so I eventually turned southward to Aurora.

There, on the second floor behind the honey-hued walls of the historic Church Street School, was the Aurora Museum. I'd been to that building once before to pick up my Beavers uniform, but had no idea there was a bustling museum upstairs – but, once this revelation was, well, revealed, I had to see what it was all about.

My mom and I made the short trip one weekend and I tried to take everything in

like a sponge. Amid the artefacts on the walls and in display cases were recreated scenes of what life of yore was like, and this rather static history was soon brought to life by curator Jacqueline Stuart who had the unique ability to make an otherwise mundane school desk as interesting as a war relic.

This experience played no small part in stoking a love of history, whether it's history around the corner or around the world.

On Monday, I was back behind those honey-hued walls of the Church Street School, which now forms the historic heart of the Aurora Town Square complex. While the Aurora Museum remains a vital component of the whole, albeit in a much smaller configuration compared to my first visit, the building has evolved, changed, and grown over time.

Things may have changed, but Monday night's Community Recognition Awards offered something of a full circle moment.

There, a few steps away from the former museum space, I was once again with my mother and, once again, with the lovely Jackie Stuart, more than 30 years after I first crossed that threshold.

I was honoured to be on hand not just to cover the event itself for our newspapers, but to also receive the Community Leadership Award, while Stuart received the Town of Aurora's Heritage Award – an annual award I was surprised to learn has not caused Jackie to have to invest in a second mantle to hold 'em all. Long overdue!

The Community Recognition Awards is always one of my favourite events of the year. Not only does it give this writer a chance to shine a further light on the people that make communities like ours tick, but in a world that can often feel increasingly dispiriting and challenging, there's nothing quite as encouraging as learning about the wonderful things people do to give back and make the world around them, local or further afield, that much better.

It's hard to leave the event without feeling like you have a bit of extra wind in your sails and inspired to take on whatever lies ahead.

Truth be told, however, after covering this event each year for almost 15 years in various capacities, this year's ceremony was decidedly different as I was actually on the receiving end of one of these things and on the other side of the camera. In fact, being on the "other side" for a change was remarked upon more than once in the evening.

But no matter how odd it felt, it was truly an honour to be, as the Town of Aurora's slogan suggests, in the best of company.

Being in this job, many of the evening's honorees were already familiar to me, and I've had the privilege of writing about the good they do before – but there were plenty more whom I was able to meet for the first time, and learn more about what drives them to make a difference.

These community superheroes are driven by a passion to make a difference rather than any superpower, and that's always worth a reminder.

It was a wonderful evening, and one that left me even more buoyed than it usually does, and I thank those who nominated me for the award and to everyone at the Town who came together to truly put on a night to remember.

And, for this historian-at-heart, helping make that 30-plus-years-in-the-making full-circle moment possible.



Life is fragile and unpredictable

by Mark Pavilons



poseful life by some extraordinary power?

Maybe a little of both. Our decision-making is influenced by our past experiences and conditioning. Our upbringing, education, and life experiences shape our beliefs and perceptions of the world. These beliefs and perceptions act as filters through which we interpret and make decisions about our lives.

One view of life is that everything happens by chance. I am lucky to be alive, given the astronomical odds of coming into being. Yet I am mortal, subject to the whims of the forces of nature. I am reminded of this each and every day.

In my current journey with cancer, it seems like we're always chasing cancer's tail. It's like putting out spot fires every time one erupts, and then moving on.

I'm somewhat resigned to the fact my life now revolves around blood work, scans, treatment, and repeat.

I knew this from the day I was told my prostate cancer had metastasized. The key was to keep PSA as low as possible, and try to stall the progression of cancer – stop it in its tracks.

It can't be defeated, but anything that hinders its spread offers more time – more time to live, more time to discover more treatment options.

Even after my journey thus far, I still don't feel like a "cancer patient."

Sure, I accept it, understand it and work around it. At this point, fate, and the recommendations of learned physicians, make up my journey moving forward.

I have no choice in the matter. I have asked for strength – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, along the way. But really, all the positive energy, prayer, healing vibrations and supplements are not enough.

Christians view that God not only rules the world but is intimately involved with everything that transpires. In this sense, destiny replaces fate.

According to Meade's book, "Fate and Destiny: The Two Agreements of the Soul," he writes: "What I am calling fate has to do with the way a person's soul is seeded and shaped from within, like a story trying to unfold and become known. What I am calling destiny has to do with the inner arc and arrow of one's life. For each soul is secretly aimed at the world and inclined toward a destination that only becomes revealed in crucial moments and at turning points in life. The elements of fate and destiny are intimations of the story our soul would have us live, both the limitations that must be faced and the destination that would be found. As fate would have it, they are often found through what seems like a big mistake, a strange accident or a surprise."

He admits that fate involves "earthly limitations, but destiny on the other hand, says we are "of the stars."

So, my dilemma is the tug-of-war between fate and destiny. Where does choice enter the equation? Our Creator, and even the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, give us freedom of choice. So why can't we exercise it in all circumstances?

Some higher thinkers would smile that smug smile and say, "you do, Mark, you do."

Every decision, turn, journey, diagnosis and treatment are all part of my fateful destiny. They were all meant to be part of my personal adventure.

But why? What purpose does such a struggle, and premature end, serve?

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New Tools to Combat Illegal Land Use and Trucking

The Town of Caledon showed its strong leadership in addressing illegal land uses and trucking, following the Province of Ontario's announcement of new enforcement tools for municipalities at Town Hall on May 20.

The Ontario government will soon propose amendments to the Planning Act aimed at helping municipalities better prevent illegal land uses, including unauthorized truck yards and commercial trucking operations on lands not zoned for industrial use. These proposed changes would give municipalities the authority to impose administrative monetary penalties for illegal land uses, including illegal truck yards that are often established on rural, agricultural, and residential properties.

This important announcement reflects years of advocacy and collaboration to secure stronger enforcement measures and greater provincial support for municipalities facing these challenges.

In August 2024, Town of Caledon representatives appeared before the Provincial Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy to advocate for stronger provincial action on illegal truck yards and unlawful land uses. Together, we called for enhanced enforcement tools and stronger collaboration across all levels of government to help address long-standing gaps in land use controls that have impacted residents, rural communities, and valuable agricultural lands.

This progress would not have been possible without strong partnerships and collective advocacy. We worked with the Small Urban

GTHA Mayors, neighbouring municipalities, and members of the Big City Mayors caucus, including Patrick Brown, Gordon Krantz, and Steven Del Duca. We would also like to sincerely thank the members of the Town of Caledon's Illegal Land Use and Illegal Trucking Task Force, as well as the Caledon Community Road Safety Advocacy Group, for their continued dedication and advocacy.

This is a meaningful win for our community and an important step toward addressing the spread of illegal truck yards across Caledon and within our natural areas. We thank the Province, Minister Flack, Minister Sarkaria and Deputy Premier Jones for recognizing the seriousness of this issue and for providing municipalities with the tools needed to take meaningful action. Today's announcement highlights the impact of sustained advocacy, strong partnerships, and a shared commitment to protecting our communities.

Since 2024, the Town of Caledon has prosecuted more than 40 illegal truck yard operations and event centres as part of its ongoing efforts to protect public safety, preserve agricultural lands, and uphold community standards.

Caledon remains committed to working collaboratively with provincial partners, neighbouring municipalities, and enforcement agencies to ensure these new tools are implemented effectively and that communities have the support and resources needed to protect residents and promote responsible land use planning.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dunk Disposal gives new life to bikes through upcoming Donation Drive for HeartBeat Bikes

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

For the sixth year in a row, Dunk Disposal will drive through town picking up old bikes to repurpose and give them a new life through HeartBeat Bikes.

HeartBeat Bikes is a community, not-for-profit bike shop that takes in used or broken bikes/bike parts, which are then reassembled and repurposed.

HeartBeat Bikes is a "transition-focused employment program" that helps youth working with them overcome "employment barriers through intentional life skills development, on-the-job training, and paid employment at the bike shop."

They aim to "help youth find a permanent, meaningful job at wages that not only allow them to sustain themselves but also give them a chance to advance in their new career path once they leave us."

For free, Dunk Disposal will come by and pick up your used or unwanted bikes, as well as any helmets, bike parts or related items.

They will also service surrounding towns, including Caledon, Orangeville, Shelburne, Erin, Brampton, Bolton, and Tottenham.

The only heavy lifting you need to do is letting Dunk Disposal know where they can find your old bike.

Cameron Dunkerley with Dunk Disposal says they picked up over 250 bikes at last year's donation drive.

To get added to the route of pickups on the day, residents can call, text, email, or contact Dunk Disposal via social media, or 905 766 9008, contact@dunkdisposal.ca.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Ontario Heritage Trust invites residents to explore Province's past this Ontario Day

Continued from FRONT

Milestones in Ontario's History will feature moments that have shaped the province, and explore the formation of Ontario's lands and waterways, over 10,000 years of human history, and trace the events that have shaped communities, industries, rights and government systems, says the agency.

The Ontario Heritage Trust encourages Ontarians to use this resource to "reflect on how Ontario's past connects to their own lives."

With Ontario Day drawing near, they kicked off the celebration early this year with a ceremony at the Cheltenham Badlands in Caledon, one of Ontario's geological treasures, and one of the most recognizable and visited natural heritage landmarks in Southern Ontario.

This Ontario Day, the Ontario Heritage Trust is not only encouraging the use of its new timeline feature but also encouraging people to take the day to explore museums and natural heritage destinations first-hand.

To assist with that, entry to the Cheltenham Badlands will be free on June 1, allowing the community to enjoy the area's grand history



MPP Sylvia Jones welcomes the crowd to Caledon.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

and scenery.

At the ceremony marking the launch, CEO of the Ontario Heritage Trust Helen Chimiri-Russell welcomed a crowd of local MPPs, Town of Caledon Staff, Ontario Heritage Trust members and more to the rich site of the Cheltenham Badlands.

"We chose this site today, not only because of its significance, but because learning and engaging with places like these help us to build the foundational knowledge of the history and heritage of Ontario," said Chimiri-Russell.

MPP for Dufferin-Caledon Sylvia Jones also noted the importance of the backdrop of the celebration that day, adding that the Ontario Heritage Trust and the Cheltenham Badlands have been an "important part of our Caledon community."

"When the Ontario Heritage Trust stepped up to make sure that it could be preserved and enjoyed for future generations, [it] really spoke to the commitment not only to Caledon and the Cheltenham Badlands, but also the work that the Ontario Heritage Trust does," said Jones. "Thank you to the Ministry for making sure that this vital asset and gem can be preserved."

Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, and MPP for Brampton North, attended the celebration that day, and added he's no stranger to the Cheltenham Badlands himself.

"I'm so grateful for the work of the Ontario Heritage Trust, to preserve this site and make sure that future generations have the same opportunity to have great memories here, to visit here, explore our natural beauty as a province, just like I had the ability to do," said McGregor.

"We need to make sure we're preserving sites like this and stories like these now more than ever, especially when we're facing so many external challenges as a province and as a country. There's never been a better time to collectively commemorate the special

things that define us, and no better reason to deepen our understanding of our province to unite and protect Ontario."

On Ontario Day, he said, they invite those across the province to celebrate Ontario's history and Ontario's heritage, and explore what makes Ontario unique, from "our diverse cultures to our shared values."

"Through these efforts, we aim to cultivate a stronger sense of belonging, so that every person sees themselves reflected in Ontario's story, its fabric, its history, and its heritage," said McGregor.

"On Ontario Day, I encourage everyone to please learn about the people, places, and events that have shaped Ontario's story."

Chair of the Ontario Heritage Trust, John Ecker, spoke to the role of heritage in celebrating Ontario.

These days, he said, it's important across communities to spark a curiosity and foster an understanding of how Ontario has come to be and how the province is woven into the fabric of the country.

"Ontario Day is the perfect time to reflect on this work, to learn more about Ontario, to better understand what connects us to this place we call home, to celebrate how Ontario has shaped us and how we share the pride we have in living in such a beautiful place," said Ecker.

He noted the launch of their new timeline resource, Milestones in Ontario's History, and added it is a jumping-off point to the Trust's portfolio of heritage programs, such as Doors Open and the Provincial Plaques program.

"These programs and others help us make sense of the past, thrive in the present, and build a stronger future," said Ecker.

On Ontario Day, whether you take the opportunity and use the free admission to explore all that the Cheltenham Badlands has to offer, or visit the Milestones in Ontario History's timeline resource, the Ontario Heritage Trust encourages all Ontarians to discover the rich history of Ontario this year.

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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.

Monthly Dinner – Friday, May 29, 2026

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

Bolton Kin Toonie Treasure Sale

Saturday June 6th from 10 am till 1 pm at the President Building Albion Bolton Fairgrounds. Racks and racks of new/gently used apparel for men, women and children all for a toonie! All proceeds help support community needs.

Albion Bolton Historical Society - Monday, June 8, for a 7:30 PM start, at Rotary Place, 7 Rotarian Way, Bolton, Multi-purpose Room 2. NOTE: NEW MEETING LOCATION. Kurt McMurray will present The History of Mono Mills. Members & Guests are asked to bring any library memorabilia to share with the group. Guests \$5.00. Questions: nhillerphoto@bell.net or 905-584-2801 visit us at boltonhistory.com

Tuesday June 9 2026

Free Bingo Night at 6 pm – all welcome! Join us for Bingo, Prizes, Pizza and Fun! Bolton United Church 8 Nancy Street, Bolton, Ontario, L7E 1C7 905-857-2615 www.boltonunitedchurch.com

The Caledon Breast Cancer Support Group

will be holding it's 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!

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.

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 Butter Tart Festival returns with 50 vendors for 2026

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Caledon Butter Tart Festival is rolling back into Town this weekend, bringing 50 vendors with handcrafted sweets and goods.

The event, run by Gotta Luv ButterTarts, brings award-winning bakers and vendors under one roof at the Caledon East Community Complex for a “sweet” day of browsing.

Helen Prucha, with Gotta Luv ButterTarts, says that half of the 50 vendors will be selling butter tarts, and the other half will have something for everyone, even those without a sweet tooth.

Vendors will be on-site serving a variety of goods, including hot sauces, breads, and more.

“It’s a foodie lover’s delight,” says Prucha, adding local artisan vendors will also be on site selling various goods.

For the beloved butter tarts, she notes that there will be unique, gourmet tart flavours for everyone to try.

After hosting the event last year, Prucha says they’re not looking to change much

in 2026, except for the goal for community impact.

“I think the nice thing about last year’s event, what I really loved was the outreach,” says Prucha.

In lieu of admission, the event accepts donations to The Exchange food bank in Caledon.

“Last year, we got over 100 pounds of food that was donated through the community generosity and they were blown away, and that led the way to helping a lot of families,” she says. “Our goal this year is to match or beat last year’s.”

One of the best parts of the festival, Prucha adds, is that it’s right here in Caledon.

“We’ve got award-winning bakers coming from all over Ontario,” she says.

“[Caledon residents] don’t have to travel to visit any of these people, they’re coming to them, and there’ll be quite a variety,” she adds.

The event is held on Saturday, May 30, at the Caledon East Community Complex, and will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is free, and organizers welcome attendees to bring donations for The Exchange in its place.

Theatre Orangeville and Community Living Dufferin set to present Creative Partners on Stage festival

BY JOSHUA DRAKES

The stage at Theatre Orangeville will once again become a celebration of creativity, inclusion and community connection as Community Living Dufferin (CLD) and Theatre Orangeville prepare to host its annual Creative Partners on Stage (CPOS) Festival this weekend.

Running May 29 to 31 at the Opera House, the festival brings together theatre, music, art and storytelling while spotlighting neurodiverse performers, artists and entrepreneurs from across the community.

CLD said in a statement that everyone is welcome to attend to help support the performers.

“This festival is an incredible opportunity to celebrate inclusion, creativity, and the amazing accomplishments of the CPOS program participants. We encourage staff, families, friends, and community supporters to attend and help us fill the theatre with encouragement and support.”

This year’s festival will feature two original productions, Life OFF Mars and Picture This, each exploring themes of belonging, family, and identity through humour and heart.

Life OFF Mars tells the story of a group of stranded aliens who crash-land on Earth and must find a new place to call home while being pursued by the mysterious “Men in Beige.” The production is a mix of comedy with deeper messages about acceptance and finding community in unfamiliar places.

Following the end of the first performance, audi-

ence members can move down to the Lower Atrium for an artisan market showcasing neurodiverse-led businesses and artists.

The market will also include concessions and interactive art activities, giving guests the chance to meet local creators, purchase handmade works and participate in their own artistic experiences.

Following this extended intermission is the second production, Picture This.

This story centres around a family gathering for a grandfather’s 70th birthday celebration. As an old photo album comes to life, younger versions of family members come to life right from the pages, revisiting memories, milestones and dreams from across generations.

CLD describes the show as a reminder that every family story continues to evolve.

Organizers said that the festival is about more than just the performances themselves. The weekend is intended to celebrate the accomplishments of CPOS participants while encouraging inclusion, visibility and support for neurodiverse artists throughout Dufferin County.

Performances begin Friday evening with Life OFF Mars at 6:30 p.m., followed by the artisan market at 7:30 p.m. and Picture This at 8:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday both share the same schedule with afternoon performances beginning at 1 p.m.

Individual show tickets are \$25, while double-feature festival passes are \$40.

To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 519-942-3423.

ADVERTISING **LOCALLY** WORKS!

PUBLIC NOTICE

McLaughlin Road Municipal Class Environmental Assessment—Lippa Drive to King Street Notice of Public Consultation Centre #1

Following the recommendations of the 2024 Multi-Modal Transportation Master Plan (2024), the Town of Caledon (Town) has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) to evaluate options for urbanization and widening from 2 to 4 lanes of McLaughlin Road from Lippa Drive to King Street. The study area is divided into two phases. Section A (Phase 1) of the study area extends between Lippa Drive and Old School Road, and Section B (Phase 2) of the study area extends between Old School Road and King Street.

Study Process:

The study is being carried out in accordance with the requirements of a Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Municipal Engineers Association, 2024), which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

Public Consultation Centre #1

Your input is a key component of this study. The first Public Consultation Centre (PCC) will be held on June 17, 2026 to present information about the project, existing conditions and the recommended road widening. The PCC will be held as a drop-in style open house, and members of the study team will be available to answer your questions. Information materials will also be made available on the project webpage at haveyoursaycaledon.ca/mclaughlinroadea following the PCC. For future consultation opportunities and project updates, please refer to the study webpage.

Date: June 17, 2026, 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: Southfields Community Centre – 225 Dougall Avenue, Caledon

Contact Us! For further information, to submit comments on the study, or if you would like to be added to receive future notices for this study, please contact one of the study team members below:

Jaspreet Kaur, MASC, P.Eng.
Town Project Contact
Engineering, Public Works & Transportation,
Town of Caledon
6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, ON L7C 1J6
Tel: 905.584.2272 (ext. 4040)
Email: Jaspreet.Kaur1@caledon.ca

Mishaal Rizwan, RPP, MCIP
Consultant Environmental Planner
R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd.
2-6990 Creditview Road
Mississauga, ON L5N 8R9
Tel: 226-343-7014
Email: Mishaal.Rizwan@rjburnside.com

Project and notice information will be made accessible upon request in accordance with the Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

Information provided in response to this notice will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will be part of the public record.

This Notice first issued on May 28, 2026.



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NOTICE 2025/2026



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us Thursday, June 25

Glen Eagle Golf Club (15731 Peel Regional Rd 50, Bolton)

Welcome and Registration: 5:00 p.m.

Annual General Meeting: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Hear the business of the Corporation:

1. Receive and consider the financial statements of the Corporation for the year ending March 31, 2026.
2. Elect the Board of Directors for 2026/2027.
3. Appoint auditors and authorize the Directors to fix their remuneration.
4. Approve the Corporation's amendments to its governance by-laws.
5. Transact other business as may properly come before the meeting.

AGM Attendance and Voting Eligibility

All are welcome to attend the 2026 CCS AGM. Individuals wishing to vote must register in advance and meet the criteria to be a CCS member under our by-laws.

For the 2026 AGM, eligible members are individuals who, between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026:

- Volunteered with CCS; or
- Made a financial donation to CCS

As part of the RSVP, you will be asked to indicate whether you're attending as a:

- Voting member; or
- Guest (non-voting)

We'll confirm voting eligibility using CCS records ahead of the AGM.



RSVP by June 10

Greenbelt Foundation and Forests Canada celebrate planting of 750,000 native trees

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Greenbelt Foundation and Forests Canada came together at Albion Hills Conservation Park to celebrate their partnership, planting 750,000 native trees as part of the 1 Million Greenbelt Trees Program.

Since 2022, the non-profit Forests Canada and the Greenbelt Foundation have partnered to plant 750,000 trees in the Greenbelt region to “enhance near-urban and rural forest cover, increase biodiversity, improve water quality, and reduce flooding and extreme heat close to urban areas.”

And last Friday, they came together to celebrate the success of this partnership.

The 750,000 native trees are part of the 1 Million Greenbelt Trees Program, an initiative that came from the goal of “strengthening habitat connectivity, enhancing biodiversity, and reinforcing the natural integrity of the Greenbelt landscape.”

The trees planted through this partnership are said to sequester carbon, create new wildlife habitat, and improve erosion control and water quality, as well as providing numerous economic benefits to local communities.

Coming together on May 22, International Day for Biological Diversity, it was a fitting day to acknowledge the hard work of both organizations.

Still to come this year, Forests Canada announced it will plant another 250,000 native trees to help the foundation reach its one-million-tree milestone.

Standing in the Albion Hills Conservation Park in Caledon, the area will be the future home of some of the 250,000 trees to be planted this year.

Those newly planted trees will join the millions already planted by Forests Canada throughout the Greenbelt region and in communities across the province.

“These millions of trees, while they are a number, they’re also contributing to the long-term goal for Forests Canada,” said Jessica Kaknevicus with Forests Canada. “Our charity is focused on conserving, restoring and growing Canada’s forests to sustain life and communities, and these trees are really contributing to that future forest and ensuring healthy, diverse, resilient forests for generations to come.”

Kaknevicus adds that when they plant these trees, not only are they growing forests that clean the air, protect the water and shelter wildlife, but also “creating spaces for future generations to learn, explore and find connection with the natural world right close to home.”

Since their partnership began in 2022, Kaknevi-



SAY TREES! Michael Rogers, Grants Program Manager, Greenbelt Foundation, Elizabeth Jarrett, Chief Operating Officer, Forests Canada, TRCA Karen McDonald, Regional Councillor Christina Early, Forests Canada, Jessica Kaknevicus, Regional Councillor Mario Russo, Mayor of Erin Michael Dehn, and Greenbelt Foundation Edward McDonnell.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

cius said the 750,000 trees planted spanned over 510 project sites and 200 landowners and created 430 hectares of new forests.

But it’s not just the trees in the ground. Forests Canada also considers seed, stock, planting partners, and monitoring to ensure that the trees contribute to resilient forests in the future.

She notes their partners include 30 different planting delivery agents and 10 nurseries that they work with in the Greenbelt.

“When we look at forests and trees, they provide hope. By restoring forests across landscapes, we can strengthen connectivity, resilience, and the ability of ecosystems to adapt and thrive, and all that equals hope,” said Kaknevicus. “At a time when many global challenges can feel complex and daunting, growing forests is a tangible and visible sign of hope. It is something people can point to and say, this makes a difference. Every seed planted, every hectare restored, is a step towards a healthier, more resilient, and more hopeful Ontario.”

Edward McDonnell, CEO with the Greenbelt Foundation, said that with the Greenbelt surrounding the largest population centres in the country, they often say one in four Canadians lives in or within 20 kilometres of the Greenbelt.

He adds that when it comes to growing populations and the intensification of climate change, they can use the asset of the greenbelt to help combine major urban centres with “all the incredible things the Greenbelt provides, in terms of water, agriculture, natural systems, green spaces, and recreational

opportunities.”

McDonnell said it’s not one or the other, or a trade-off; both can coexist.

Years ago, he said, they worked with a range of conservation, agriculture, and environmental partners to take a broader look at the natural systems, cores, and connectivity in Southern Ontario.

They came up with the idea and a strategy for an urban nature network, which identified the need to intensify tree coverage within and across the natural system.

“What we’ve been doing as part of the One Million Tree Program is looking at very focused approaches to get the right tree, in the right place, for the right reason,” said McDonnell. “We’ve got to the 750,000 point, we are going to be working to the 1 million point, and we’re really excited to be working with all of you, and look forward to what comes after that.”

Michael Dehn, Mayor of the Town of Erin, said the initiative itself is about “more than just numbers.”

“By carefully selecting and planting native species, Forests Canada is actively building resilient habitats. These aren’t just beautiful landscapes, these are working ecosystems,” said Dehn. “The trees planted through this initiative are already getting to work, reducing flood risks in our communities, providing critical canopies to mitigate extreme heat, and capturing carbon to help us fight climate change.

“You’re not just planting trees, you’re planting

resilience. You’re planting community health, and you’re planting a vibrant, sustainable future for generations.”

“This is stuff that’s going to be a legacy for the future,” said Regional Councillor Christina Early.

Karen McDonald, Senior Manager of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)’s ecosystem management team, touched on the importance of hosting the celebration itself at Albion Hills Conservation Park.

“As one of the most vital natural spaces in Peel Region, this park demonstrates all of the benefits of a healthy and dense tree canopy,” said McDonald. “The forests surrounding us today provide more than just clean air and fresh water. They offer our community a direct connection to nature through hiking, camping, and forest-based wellness.”

McDonald noted that these types of green spaces cannot be taken for granted. She said between rapid urbanization and a shifting climate, the environment is “under mounting pressure.”

“By planting these trees, this program is helping to build the resilient green infrastructure our communities need to survive,” said McDonald.

TRCA, through their partnership with Forests Canada, planted almost 135,000 trees together over the past three years.

Each tree planted is bringing the organizations closer to their goal, including a few trees planted that morning, symbolizing another step forward.



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BUSINESS



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Three decades of Music, Mentorship, and Growth at DeGazon Music School

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

DeGazon Music School spends each day ensuring its students are both learning and enjoying the deeper value of music education.

They've carried this philosophy with them for decades, celebrating 30 years of serving the community this year.

DeGazon Music School serves Caledon, Mississauga, and Kleinburg, with more than 30 dedicated teachers and structured mentorship. They use their music education not only to teach and inspire, but also to focus on "shaping who your child is becoming."

When former educator Rachel DeGazon took the leap to start her music school full-time, it wasn't something she ever had in the cards.

After pursuing and obtaining degrees in Biochemistry and music, she attended teachers' college and soon after began teaching with the York Region District School Board.

It began on the side, with her taking a few of her current students and offering music lessons, but it soon became her full-time passion, leading her to open her first music school location.

"Through time and through working through life, you will find where your place is, and I love teaching in the school system, but...finding that passion to offer wonderful, wonderful teaching to kids who are loving music, I found that to be such an important role," she says.

Growing up, DeGazon says she had very traditional music lessons and loved music all her life, but in her own studio, she came to understand the importance of strong teach-



(From Left) Anthony, Rachel, and Elijah.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ing.

"I'm passionate about music, but I'm a lot more passionate about good teaching," says DeGazon. "Being able to see a gap and see where there are kids who are so interested in music, and so many kids take music lessons, and they quit because they hate it - I'm like, there's something wrong here, because music is so awesome."

"Our philosophy is we will stand on our heads, we will do anything to keep kids loving music and interested in music lessons."

She adds she often tells their teachers that they play an important role in these students' lives.

Fifteen years later, DeGazon's husband, Anthony, joined her as the school began to grow and they opened their second location.

They now operate out of three locations in Bolton, Kleinburg, and Mississauga, and their youngest daughter, Elliah, has graduated with a business degree and joined the family business, helping it grow for years to come.

"Knowing that the family business is going to continue, that's really sweet as a legacy," says DeGazon.

But it's not just their own family that has come full circle.

After having their doors open for decades,

DeGazon says they see students they once taught bringing back their own children for lessons.

"Just knowing that we have a place in the world and we're being of influence, and my teachers are being of influence, and what a great job to... be able to be the facilitators of introducing wonderful teaching to these kids," says DeGazon.

At their school, they offer private lessons for various instruments, as well as lessons for students seeking Royal Conservatory of Music standards for post-secondary schools, taught by qualified teachers.

It is all about meeting the students' needs.

"It's our job as educators to make this experience with music as great as it can be," says DeGazon. "And we do our absolute best."

Looking back on 30 years of teaching, she says they've learned that what they offer is "so much more than music lessons."

She says not only will they teach your child how to play an instrument, but also, through music lessons, "teaching them life skills," which she says can range from sticking with things when things get hard to a growth mindset and more.

"I would honestly say that's probably the biggest benefit of music lessons," says DeGazon. "Stick-to-itiveness."

"You can do hard things knowing that there's that growth mindset...You can do things that are difficult. After 30 years reflecting, I think that's one of the biggest a-has."

To the DeGazon Music Studios, music lessons are so much more than just learning an instrument, she adds, and they look forward to continuing teaching that for decades to come.

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“Velocity 2026: Help Keep Caledon Moving!” by Gabriel Saavedra Reyes, Donor Communications and Digital Content Coordinator



Antonella moved to Caledon after surgery changed nearly every aspect of her life.

Once active and independent, she suddenly

found herself unable to drive, struggling with isolation and unsure where to turn in her new community.

One phone call to Caledon Community Services (CCS) made a huge difference. What began as rides to physiotherapy through CCS' Transportation quickly became something much more.

Through the support of the transportation team, Antonella was introduced to wellness programs, social groups and a community that welcomed her with open arms.

“The drivers are all like my second family,” says Antonella. “They make you feel part of this community, not an outcast.”

Today, CCS' Transportation helps Antonella get to medical appointments, grocery shopping, AquaFit classes and wellness programs that have become her ‘lifeline.’ Along the way, she has made friendships, rebuilt confidence and rediscovered parts of herself she feared she'd lost.

“It gave me hope that life is not over,”

she shares. “Yes, you may have lost your mobility or yes, you're struggling with illness, but there's people out there that still care about you and they [CCS] don't see you for your cane or your walker. They see me as Antonella.”

By 2030, one in six people in the world will be aged 60 years or older* and stories like Antonella's are exactly why Velocity matters so much today.

On Saturday, June 20, our neighbours will come together to ride in Velocity, CCS' annual cycling fundraiser supporting seniors' transportation and wellness programs.

This year's goal is to raise \$55,000 towards the purchase of a new accessible bus to help seniors and adults with mobility challenges stay independent, active and connected to the community they love. This is a critical community effort, as six CCS vehicles will need to be replaced by 2027 to continue providing vital community connections.

Whether you ride, donate or cheer from the sidelines, every kilometre helps keep life moving for neighbours like Antonella.

Sign up to ride, make a donation or learn how you can help at www.ccsvelocity.ca and let's turn bike rides into bus rides!

*World Health Organization



How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it. Mariia Kupriianova, Chief Development Officer, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 269 or mkupriianova@ccs4u.org

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

**SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON**



Caledon is “AMP'D” up!

The media was saturated last week with the news that Caledon (and surrounding communities) have finally been given some of the tools they need to fight back against illegal truck yards. A star lineup of MPPs from Queens Park and our very own Sylvia Jones made the trek all the way to Caledon Town Hall to make the announcement. Hopefully, they took a good, hard look around as they drove here. Following the big announcement, was an email from Minister Jones' office to some of her constituents, referencing that, “in the coming days” a commitment would be forthcoming, signalling the Provincial government might actually begin to address the ongoing issue of Drivers Inc. and truck driver training. Caledon is getting all AMP'd up - but will it be enough?

First, a clarification. AMP'd is my take on being “amped” up about something called Administrative Monetary Penalties. This essentially means the Provincial government is giving towns and municipalities like ours permission to issue administrative monetary penalties, giving us “an additional tool to immediately address inappropriate land uses.” These would be in addition to our current ability to prosecute offenders who “contravene zoning by-laws,” even though such actions often take years to work their way through the courts and collecting any associated fines has proven challenging (to say the least).

Minister Flack, along with Transportation Minister Prabmeet Sakaria, were both on hand for the announcement with Flack saying: “Several municipalities have asked the government for more tools to address illegal land uses, including trucks illegally parked on agricultural, rural, and residential lands ... that is why we are pleased to support this locally led solution, protecting our communities, including the surrounding farmland, and ensuring the health and safety of residents.” I suppose, even if it's at least five years too late, it all sounds promising. He's right about one thing though: it's an issue that not just municipalities have been clamouring for, but also area residents' groups like the CCRSA who have been very vocal, garnering attention from trucking associations, the provincial and even federal governments, perhaps working even harder than some of our local officials to highlight the dangers we face every day here in Caledon.

Encouraged by some movement on the matter, the Caledon Community Safety and Road Advocacy Group had this to say about the announcement: “We are extremely excited that we received news about upcoming legislation. We would have

liked to see what the full legislation entails but the acknowledgment at least is a step in the right direction. For years (even up to last week) the Ford government pointed the finger back at the Municipal level but now there should no longer be any excuses. These illegal operations will be dealt with at the Municipal level which is within the community reach.”

I hope they're right, and their optimism is not misplaced. Progress seems possible, yes, and perhaps this is just the first in a series of positive steps in the right direction. Yet for me, this is the same Minister who just a few weeks ago sent the Town of Caledon a “sternly” worded letter admonishing us for not following the express directions of the province on aggregate policy. In it, he essentially told us to do what the province wants us to do “or else,” so I might be forgiven for being a bit sceptical about it all.

More interesting still was the email received by a number of constituents from our own MPP Sylvia Jones, which in addition to lauding the government's illegal land use announcement, also hinted that her government might finally be ready to tackle the deadly (yes, deadly) issue of Drivers Inc. and fraudulent and inadequate truck driver training. Her email states, “In addition, our government continues to strengthen communities' commercial trucking oversight across Ontario” referencing things like expanded inspections, increased roadside enforcement and allegedly, “stronger driver training standards and enhanced oversight of commercial driver licensing and training providers.” All part of their commitment apparently, to support safe communities. It's about time. All it took was an auditor general's report to get here.

In the Town's announcement about illegal truck yards, Commissioner of Community Services Judith D'Souza Soares pointed out the serious challenges illegal land use is causing us in terms of public safety, the environmental issues and the impact on the community and we couldn't agree more. But it's been that way for a very long time and we are only just seeing action now. Whether or not this announcement about illegal land use, and/or Sylvia Jones' seeming promise to address truck driver training is enough to begin to make a dent in the issue remains to be seen. Collecting fines and prosecutions weren't able to achieve much in the way of deterrence, and unless this new legislation has some real “teeth” to it, we could be “all AMP'd up but with no place to go.”



NEWS

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

VOTE FOR CALEDON'S OFFICIAL BIRD

Caledon is proud to be a Bird-Friendly City, designated by Nature Canada.

Now it's your turn to choose our official bird!

Cast your vote today: haveyoursaycaledon.ca/officialbird

CALEDON SPORT HALL OF FAME

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

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 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.

Caledon Day

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Council moves to request funding for CCTV camera expansion

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

At Council's May 26 meeting, local lawmakers moved to formally request \$500,000 from the Region of Peel to support the expansion of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera infrastructure within Caledon.

Within the motion, tabled by Mayor Annette Groves, it states that the Caledon OPP have identified continued demand from residents for expanded CCTV coverage in key locations throughout the Town.

Previous investments and funding have resulted in the use of 78 cameras across the municipality.

Caledon OPP has previously shared with Council that the coverage has assisted in numerous ongoing investigations.

The motion states that funding previously allocated for CCTV expansion has "largely been committed, with limited remaining balances available."

Additionally, any further investment would support crime deterrence, assist law enforcement and investigations, and contribute to safer communities.

The proposed expansion is valued at approximately \$500,000 and is not currently included in the approved 2026 budget.

Therefore, Council unanimously approved that the Town of Caledon request funding from the Region of Peel, and that staff will be directed to work in collaboration with Caledon OPP to identify priority locations, implementation timelines, and cost estimates for the additions.

"I've had several discussions with our detachment commander as well as Sergeant Rai," said Mayor Groves at the meeting. "I know that those cameras have been very effective in assisting the OPP with investigations and some of the issues they've been dealing with. I've also had a lot of feedback from the public, because one of the things that these cameras do is they really provide a sense of security and safety for our public."

Groves added that officers cannot work 24/7, and these cameras operate 365 days a year, 24/7.

Councillor Dave Sheen voiced his support for the motion and requested that a description be made available to the public so they know what these cameras are used for and how.

The request will be sent to the Region of Peel for consideration as part of their reserve allocation decisions.

Coywolf Inglewood Village Market Sale back with sunnier springtime date

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Despite a slight postponement from Mother Nature, the Inglewood Village Market Sale is back and better than ever this Saturday, May 30.

The event, presented by Coywolf Coffee, is a chance for the community to savour, sip, shop, and stroll their way through all the great things Inglewood has to offer.

From the Lost Bear to Coywolf Coffee, an outdoor market will flow through the streets with over 20 local vendors at Coywolf, complete with live music and a barbecue.

As Coywolf hosts an annual spring market, they thought this would be the perfect opportunity to feature all the community has to offer.

The Village of Inglewood Association (VIA) was planning its annual Village Garage Sale, and Coywolf Coffee partnered with the association to help create a larger community-wide event experience for all to en-

joy.

From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be a Village Garage Sale, where you can walk from home to home, as the association has put together a map of all the stops. From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., there will be a garden club plant sale for all your needs as you start your summer garden.

For live event updates, attendees can check out Coywolf Coffee's Instagram and Facebook accounts for updates, schedules, and the official event map ahead of the day.

Visitors are encouraged to come early, wear comfortable walking shoes, and plan to spend the day exploring everything happening throughout the village.

Parking may be busier than usual, so carpooling is encouraged whenever possible, and drivers should be mindful of residential streets and local traffic.

Event parking will be available at the Inglewood Community Centre and the Inglewood Arena, and guests are encouraged to use these locations when visiting the event.

Public Notice Peel Region

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

King Street and Emil Kolb Parkway Watermain and Sanitary Sewer Project Project 24-1190

Background:

The Flow | South Caledon Program is a capital program led by Peel Region to expand water and wastewater infrastructure across Peel Region. The Flow | South Caledon Program will support both current and future service demands by constructing new watermains, sanitary sewers, sanitary forcemains and both water and wastewater facilities across the south Caledon and Bolton communities. These improvements will expand system capacity for new neighbourhoods, and employment areas, while ensuring residents continue to receive clean, safe, and reliable drinking water and effective wastewater services.

The Project:

As part of the Flow | South Caledon Program, Peel Region is undertaking the King Street and Emil Kolb Parkway Watermain and Sanitary Sewer, Project 24-1190. The project includes the construction of new underground watermain and sanitary sewer infrastructure along King Street, extending 675 metres west of Humber Station Road to Emil Kolb Parkway. The watermain will then continue south along Emil Kolb Parkway to King Street West to the future Macville Booster Pump Station.

These servicing improvements form part of Peel Region's broader commitment to delivering the infrastructure necessary to support provincial housing objectives and long-term community needs.

Public Information Centre :

Peel Region will be hosting a Public Information Centre (PIC) to provide residents and businesses with an opportunity to learn more about the planned works, review project information, and speak directly with members of the Project Team regarding potential impacts.

Date: Thursday June 4, 2026

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Albion Bolton Community Centre, Auditorium
150 Queen Street South, Bolton

The Public Information Centre will be held as an informal drop-in session. Members of the public are welcome to attend at any time during the event to review project display materials and speak directly with representatives from Peel Region and the Project Team. For those unable to attend in person, all PIC materials will be posted on the project webpage following the event at peelregion.ca/construction/project-24-1190.

Keeping you informed:

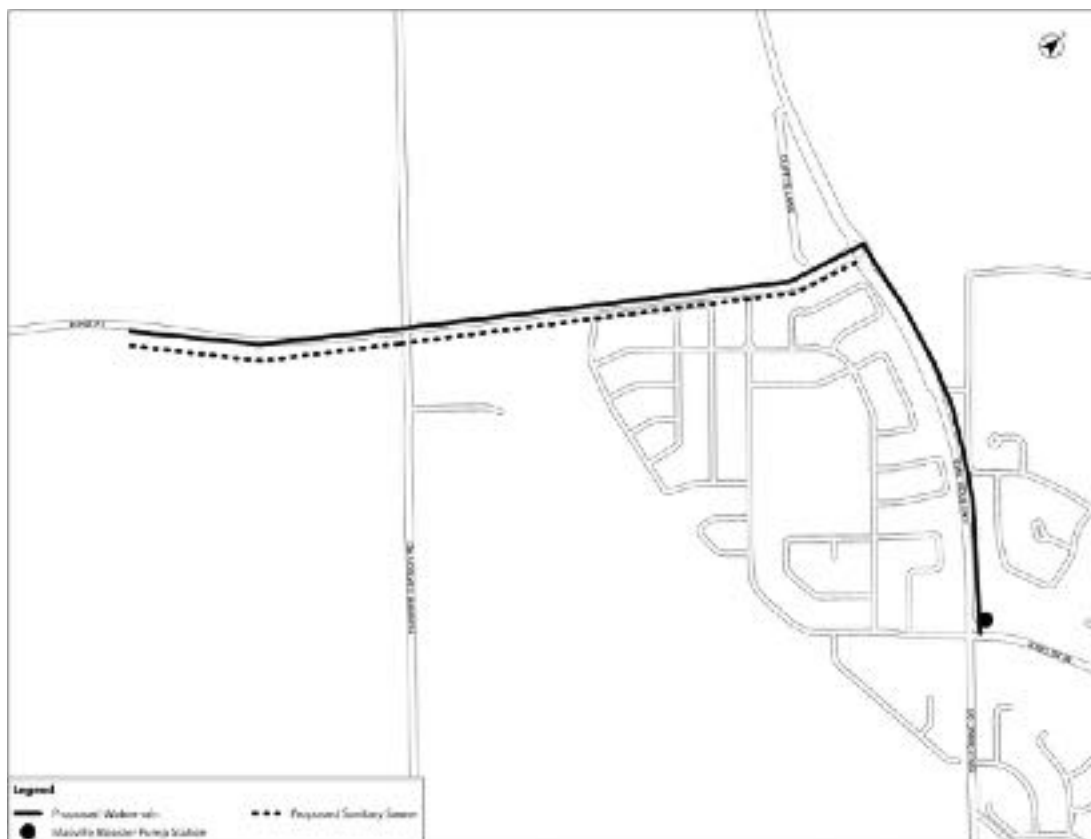
Peel Region values your input and encourages you to review the PIC materials and submit any comments or questions by July 5, 2026 through the online form available at peelregion.ca/construction.

To learn more about this project and the broader Flow | South Caledon Program, please visit peelregion.ca/flow-program. You can also sign up to receive e-notices and project updates at peelregion.ca/construction/signup.

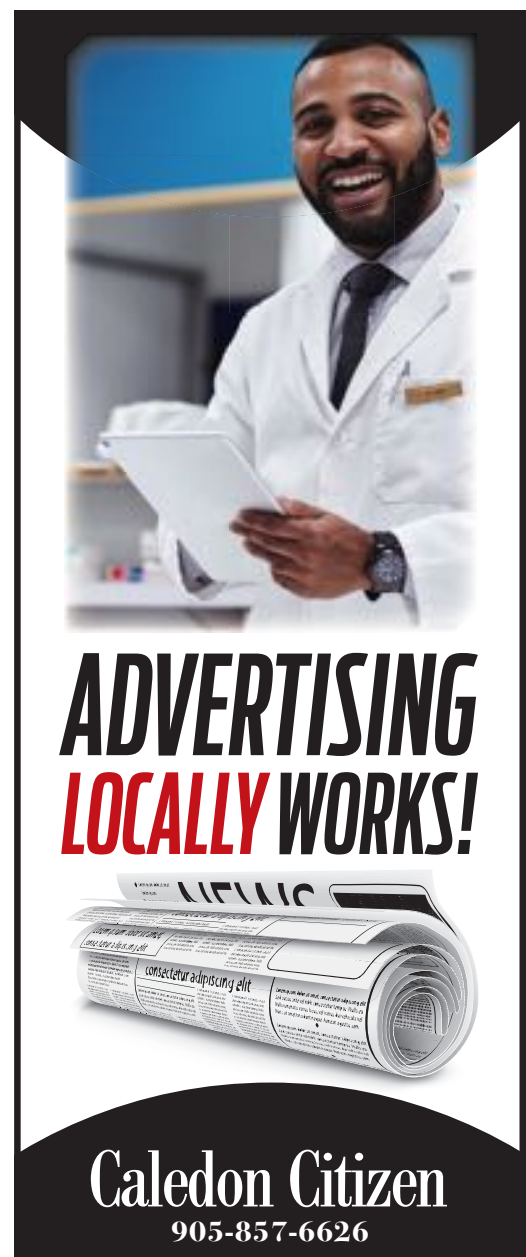
If you have any questions, require additional information, or would like to contact us directly, please contact the Project Team at 905-791-7800 x 4409 or construction@peelregion.ca.

Peel Region is committed to providing accessible services and programs. If you require accommodations to participate, please contact us directly.

The Project Area:



This notice was first issued on May 21, 2026



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Caledon Citizen
905-857-6626



Off to the races, the second group of riders of the day takes off.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Jack Ride Brings hundreds of riders out for Youth Mental Health

Continued from FRONT

“When you see 800 people coming together, in the rain, in the cold, to ride, to raise a million dollars, to support young people’s mental health across the country, it’s a clear message that you do not have to make it on your own, and that, like we say at Jack.org, we are able to be there for one another, and that’s huge,” he said.

“When every person next to you has somehow been affected by mental health in their lives, whether it be themselves, their children, a family member or a friend, this is why we ride,” he said. “Together we are giving young people across the country a huge message when we come together in groups like this, that we can and will do better moving forward.”

In their second year hosting the event in Caledon, he gave a “huge thank you” to the Caledon community.

“The riders always talk about how wonderful the community is, how great the ride is, and despite the weather, it’s great

energy here, so we’re so grateful to everyone involved.”

Each rider that day had their own reason for riding to support youth mental health.

Barb Brophy and more than 40 others attended the ride that day as part of Team Bridget.

“Bridget was a young woman, we all knew. We lost her to suicide, she lost her battle with mental health and we ride with her parents, we ride with her community,” said Brophy.

The team attended that day for the ninth year to honour her.

“She would have been here wholeheartedly participating. She was a wonderful, caring individual, and we ride so other people don’t have to go through this,” she said.

“There’s a lot of joy here, which is great. But it’s also hard.”

Noting that this ride means so much to all of them, Brophy has been able to watch the team grow over the years.

“It’s just nice to come together and do

something, put something good out into the world.”

As the 9:30 a.m. ceremony kicked off for remaining riders, Lily Baker took to the stage to share her own story.

As an advocate for mental health, Baker shared she hasn’t always felt that there was a place where she could have these conversations, but that “it’s so lovely to find a community in which these conversations are not only encouraged, but they happen.”

“For me, I often struggled, and when I did struggle, I struggled alone and quietly,” said Baker.

She said that when she moved away to university, she lost many of the support systems she had growing up and had to navigate new challenges and experiences while feeling “a little bit on my own.”

“Through this community, I’ve been able to take that isolation and have the opportunity to connect with other young people, amazing young leaders, and people who are making a real difference in

this world,” said Baker. “Seeing all of you here, ready to bike, showing up for those people in your life that you care about is so impactful.”

“Every conversation we have, every person that’s here, every donation, all of these things matter so much and make all of these contributions possible for an organization that pours back into young people, leadership, education, community care, all of those things are things that Jack.org has given me, and that I’m so grateful for,” said Baker.

Even though the ride itself has ended, the chance to support Jack Ride’s mission for supporting youth mental health has not.

Until the end of June, across Canada, individuals can participate on their own or with a team in Jack Ride, no matter where they are, and the support and donations go back into the mission to pedal for youth mental health.

To learn more, visit www.jack.org/ride-location/caledon-on.

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Miss Emily eager for returns to Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival with soulful sounds

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Two-time JUNO nominee Miss Emily is bringing her Soul Blues Americana sound back to the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival (OBJF) on Saturday, June 6.

Kingston, Ont.-based musician Emily Fennell, known professionally as Miss Emily, has built her career on her own terms – though it wasn't always easy. Two decades ago, breaking into the blues industry as a mother was far from celebrated.

"I was actually kind of a freak show," Miss Emily said. "I didn't really feel welcome in a lot of spaces being a woman, let alone a woman who was a parent who sometimes had her kid toting around with her."

Now, she's a touring headliner with four Canadian Blues Awards.

Miss Emily will take the TD Main Stage in Alexandra Park at 9:45 p.m.

"I love to sing music that makes me move. Moves me emotionally, moves me physically, that's always my goal on stage," she said.

Miss Emily said connecting with the audience is central to her live show.

"It's very powerful when people sing together, and it's definitely powerful for me from the stage. But I watch the joy that brings to the [audience's] faces when they get to be part of the show, and that in turn brings me a lot of joy. I look forward to that specifically."

Beyond the music, Miss Emily said she hopes audiences leave with something deeper.

"I want people to feel better after watching our show. I want them to feel motivated, and to feel like they matter," she said. "That seems like a lot to ask of an audience who's there to see a live music performance, but I really try and cover those topics in my lyrics, and I really try and bring as much energy and enthusiasm as possible."

That drive to inspire others is one she's carried throughout a career built against the odds. Despite early challenges in the music industry, Miss Emily said the land-



PHOTO BY SUZY LAMONT PHOTOGRAPHY

scape looks very different today.

"The world's changed a lot. Some would say for the worst, but I'm going to say there's a lot of change for the better, and I love the evolution of this business, because I find it more warm and friendly and inviting for women, mothers, and family people in general."

That evolution is something Miss Emily has witnessed firsthand over a career that started far from the festival stage.

"My beginnings were fairly humble, singing in churches, singing anthems at hockey games, then singing in bars, and now it's festivals and theatres, primarily," she said.

Miss Emily released her fifth studio album last fall, *The Medicine*, which was

nominated for Best Blues Album of the Year at the 2026 JUNO Awards.

Beyond the new record, Miss Emily has another major project on the horizon.

She's the lead role in the Blue Rodeo musical, *In The Key of Blue*, launching in July, with three weekends' worth of dates throughout Ontario.

"I haven't done musical theatre in a long time... It's been over a dozen years since I've had a professional opportunity. But I do love musical theatre, and I'm quite excited to be singing that awesome music with a really wonderful script and great storyline," Miss Emily said.

As excited as she is about the musical, she told the Citizen she is equally looking forward to her return to Orangeville.

"I already have an idea of what to bring to the amazing audiences that attend that festival, and I love Larry (Kurtz, festival director), and the folks that put it on," Miss Emily said. "I'm excited to match the vibe that they already set the table with."

Tickets to see Miss Emily at the TD Main Stage on Saturday, June 6, are available at the Orangeville Blues and Jazz website. Single-day Saturday passes are \$30, and weekend passes are \$40.

After 22 years, the opportunity to take a headline stage never gets old for Miss Emily.

"It never ceases to amaze me how awesome this business is," she said. "I'm just really grateful I still have the opportunity to do this."

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All aboard: The Mojo Train is coming to Orangeville Blues and Jazz next Saturday



PHOTO BY COURTESY OF THE MOJO TRAIN

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Glenn Marais and The Mojo Train are bringing their blues-rock show to the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival on Saturday, June 6 – and if Marais has anything to say about it, audiences should expect a high-octane performance.

“To me it’s not a good show if you’re not soaked in sweat by the end of it,” he said. “If I come off and I have energy left, I didn’t do the show.”

Juno-nominated frontman of the Toronto-based four-piece band, Glenn Marais, is no stranger to OBJF, having performed at the festival a couple of times over the past several years.

“We’re really excited. It’s a great way to kick off what’s going to be an amazing Saturday,” said Marais, who added that his band will be playing at 1:45 p.m. on the TD Main Stage in Alexandra Park. “We’re going to bring midnight energy to the mid-

dle of the day. It’s going to be pure fire when we hit the stage.”

That level of ambition doesn’t come without preparation. The band has been rehearsing since February, fine-tuning a show Marais said is designed to hit differently than anything they’ve brought before.

“We have a reputation for being a high energy act, and we try to engage with the crowd, so those elements we want to keep, but we’re trying to take the performance up to another level,” Marais said. “We put a lot of thought into this year’s show for the festivals that we’re doing... how the songs hit live, and adding some special moments.”

Reflecting on the band’s sound, Marais said it is blues rock at its core, but with a funk groove element and a knack for surprises that keep audiences — and even band members — guessing.

“We don’t put cages around our songs

live, we often go off and just improvise on the spot and feed off of each other’s energy,” he told the Citizen. “We’re not a jam band, but we do like to have that improv capacity and ability to share with people.”

That spontaneity has been sharpened over years of touring, culminating in a recent milestone that put the band on an international stage.

The Mojo Train made it to the semi-finals of the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee, earlier this year — one of the most prestigious competitions in the blues world. The experience, Marais said, reinforced something he already believed: Canadian blues gets less credit than it deserves.

“The common mindset is that American blues bands are some of the best in the world, but then when you hear from people in America, ‘Man, you Canadian bands are really good’ — that is something that we’re so proud of to be part of,” Marais

said.

That pride is part of what makes his upcoming performance at OBJF significant. What sets the festival apart, according to Marais, is the people behind it. He’s developed a personal friendship with founder Larry Kurtz and his family over the years, and describes the entire operation — from organizers to volunteers — as genuinely invested in seeing performers succeed.

“It’s a level of excitement that I haven’t experienced at other festivals,” he said.

Marais also reflected on what festivals like OBJF mean for aspiring artists, recalling how the festival gave his own band their first break.

“Larry is the kind of promoter — if you’re good, you’re eager, you approach him with intent and enthusiasm, and you’re nice, they’ll give you a shot. We were brand new into the blues scene, and he put us right on the street at a really good time slot.”

Beyond his own performance, Marais said events like OBJF play a vital role in Canada’s live music landscape.

“They’re hugely important. If you get into the fiscal part of it, they bring a lot of money into the downtown cores and into local businesses — they provide an identity for the town,” he said. “Orangeville is known for the blues festival, not just regionally, but across Canada as being one of the best festivals in Ontario, possibly the world.”

For those on the fence about attending, Marais offered a simple message.

“When you go to a festival like this, it’s worth coming for the whole day because there’s going to be an unbelievable lineup... fantastic food, and lots of places to sit and eat. It’s just very well organized,” he said.

Tickets for festival admission to the Opera House and Alexandra Park stages are available now on the OBJF website, with single-day admission priced at \$20 for Friday, \$30 for Saturday, and \$10 for Sunday. Weekend passes are available for \$40.

“For what you pay to attend the festival, you can see 10 bands. It’s an unbelievable deal,” Marais said. “Come Saturday at 1:45 and be ready to have a blast.”

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Caledon Flag Football League launches on July 4 at Humberview Turf Field

BY JIM STEWART

The launch of the Caledon Flag Football League could not be timed any better.

One of the fastest growing youth sports in North America will be showcased as a demonstration sport at the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics. Even the NFL's Pro Bowl Game has morphed into a flag format to give NFL all-stars a break from a punishing 17-game season and showcase the non-contact version of America's most popular sport.

It is in this favorable context that Adrian Piscitelli, President of the CFFL and Head Coach of the Humberview Huskies Senior Football team, has formed a league to serve the needs of Caledon's youth.

"So much of what we're trying to do is getting kids active—getting off the couch and away from screens. Parents want to provide their kids these kinds of healthy opportunities. Flag football has become one of the fastest growing sports for young people. The launch of the league coincides with a growing international interest in the game and the sport's arrival at the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles in two years. We're also filling a void here in town since Caledon didn't have a league and local kids had to travel to Orangeville, Brampton, or Vaughan to play flag football. The kids will have the opportunity to see the value of hard work, responsibility, and teamwork—and most importantly, have fun."

Coach Piscitelli, in his fifteenth year of teaching, including six at Humberview, described the connection of the new league to Huskies football.

"It's a natural extension of our football program. We're developing and steering kids towards the positive environment of our school. If it attracts kids to Humberview, all the better. The Coaches of the CFFL are current and for-

mer Humberview football coaches, as well as current and former Humberview football players. The league will also be making the lives of our student-athletes better as they serve the community of Caledon. This is what we do as teachers, coaches, and mentors. The new league also helps us stay connected with our alumni."

A distinctive Humberview alumna who will be taking on a significant role with the fledgling league is Brooke Ross who will serve as the CFFL's Director of Programming.

Ross was Humberview's Class of 2023 Valedictorian and served as the Senior Football team's manager.

Coach Piscitelli described Ross's connection to flag football at an Elite level: "Brooke's been playing flag football at Queen's University for the last three seasons and the Golden Gaels have won the OUA championship in 2025 and 2026. She's fantastic on and off the field. Securing Brooke's commitment to help manage the league solidified our intention that flag football would be a positive experience for young people in Caledon."

Ross and Piscitelli will launch their new 5-on-5 league on Saturday, July 4 at Humberview's turf field.

Registration is \$300 which includes a mouth guard, t-shirt, shorts, eight games, and one play-off day. The Summer session will complete play on August 29. Belts and flags will be provided by the League and collected after every Saturday morning session.

Coach Piscitelli explained the divisions and formats of play of the brand new CFFL.

"The league will be open to boys and girls ages 6-16 and will feature five divisions: a 'Learn to Play Co-Ed Division' for 6-7-year-olds as well as Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, and Under 16 divisions. The Humberview Turf Field will be divided into four fields of play where the kids will have a 30-minute practice before their 45-minute game. All games will take place on



Humberview SS alumna Brooke Ross – a member of Queen's Golden Gaels' OUA Flag Football championship teams in 2025 and 2026 – will serve as the CFFL's Director of Programming.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saturdays between 8 – 11 a.m. from July 4 to August 29. Registration for our Fall session is also open on our website and it will follow the same format of the Summer session with an eight-

game block in September and October."

To register your child to play Flag Football in Bolton this Summer or Fall, please go to www.caledonflagfootball.ca.

Hornets alum Nate Windle commits to Royal Military College Paladins

BY JIM STEWART

Aurora resident and Stouffville Spirit defenseman Nate Windle confirmed his commitment to the OUA Royal Military College Paladins on Friday afternoon.

Windle, who played two seasons with the powerhouse Spirit, explained his decision to commit to RMC's hockey program in Kingston, ON: "I chose the Paladins' ice hockey program because they are providing me with an amazing opportunity to continue my hockey career as well as get an amazing education."

The Honor Roll graduate of St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School is coming off a memorable season with Stouffville.

Windle was one of 14 graduating players honored in February at a centre ice ceremony during the Spirit's final home game.

His highlight of 2025-26 was based on the team's historic accomplishments.

"My highlight in the final year in Stouffville was definitely putting up the best season record in franchise history. It feels amazing knowing that I was a part of Stouffville hockey history."

Windle helped the Spirit accrue a franchise-best 40-12-2-0 record during the regular season and provided the second-place squad with a steady blue line presence.

The RMC-bound defender will take that combination of offensive punch and defensive prowess with him to Kingston in September.

Windle outlined his objectives as an OUA hockey player and prospective Business Major at the

venerable military academy.

"The goals I have being a student-athlete are to maintain a very good average as well as being dialed into hockey all year long. The main goal is being able to balance both at once."

In addition to striking a balance between his athletic life and academic life at the 150-year-old school, the long-time Aurora resident is excited about moving down the road to Kingston: "I'm looking forward to experiencing a new city. It allows me a change of scenery and adds a little more excitement."

Windle experienced his fair share of excitement in his final season with Stouffville.

In 52 games, the mobile defender tallied five goals and fifteen assists for the OJHL East Division powerhouse, but his favorite individual moment came at the expense of the high-flying, first-place Trenton Golden Hawks.

"I would say my personal highlight from the season goal-wise would be scoring against Trenton. It feels really good to score against a team that we have a rivalry with. There's something about scoring against rivals that feels really good."

Prior to playing for the Spirit, Windle refined his hockey skills with the Alliston Hornets.

He described the importance of his one season with Alliston in the Provincial Junior Hockey League: "The season with the Hornets helped me get to the next level because I was able to play a lot and develop into a stronger player. The coaching staff gave me lots of chances and allowed me to try things I wanted to do."

Before he played Junior C hockey in Alliston,

Windle was proud to don an Aurora Tigers jersey for his entire pre-Junior rep hockey career. He reflected with fondness about his best memories as a hometown hockey player: "The most memorable moment playing as an Aurora Tiger was creating friendships that will last a lifetime. If we're talking hockey, I would say winning at Lake Placid—it was the best team moment in my 12 years as an Aurora Tiger."

The 12-year Tiger and three-year defender with 'Junior C' Alliston and 'Junior A' Stouffville is aware of his role in the community as a mentor to younger players.

Windle encouraged young Aurorans to

work hard and keep the faith on their hockey journey: "The biggest advice I could give to anyone is to give it everything you have and always continue to move forward. No matter what anyone says to you-- all that matters is the effort you put in. The rest will come."

After making history with the Stouffville Spirit in his final OJHL season, Windle will be experiencing an historic occasion when he arrives in Kingston in September.

The Royal Military College of Canada will be in the midst of celebrating the 150th anniversary of its first class of cadets—"The Old Eighteen"—who began their studies at the military academy on June 1, 1876.

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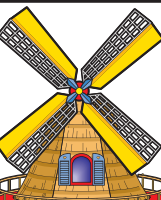


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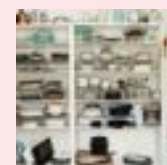
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Phillips races solo across Atlantic in Offshore Circuit

Continued from Page A3

Sponsoring his race himself, or as he likes to say, sponsored by General Tso's chicken.

No, that's not just a funny anecdote for him; the chicken dish serves as a reminder of comfort for Phillips.

When he was attending the University of Toronto and cramming for a next-day exam, he recalls that he would always be able to rely on General Tso's chicken.

Once at one of his finish lines in Paris, one of his friends was waiting for him, not alone, but with a bottle of champagne and General Tso's chicken.

One day, he says, he may even open up his own Chinese restaurant, complete with punk rock music and craft beers on tap.

The idea to have General Tso's chicken listed as his sponsor for the race came from the challenge of finding a sponsor in itself.

"Trying to get sponsors in Canada is incredibly hard for a sport that is relatively unknown," he explains. "The financial commitment to get to the finish line of the last race is [approximately] 200,000 euros. At this point, I'm sponsoring this just through my own hard work in a fleet of boats that have professional sponsors across the board."

"It's also my way of just taking a crack at that and saying, look, you can do this yourself if you're willing to commit to it, and you can make sponsors whatever you want if you're the one funding the program.

"I also just love the General Tso chicken."

As the only Canadian taking part in the circuit, he says it's been an incredible challenge.

"I'm in a new country, a new town, trying to learn a new language in a situation where I need to absorb a lot of information. It adds a whole other level of hardship to trying to do this that I didn't expect first coming in," says Phillips.

But, he adds, the welcoming nature of the sailing community and the people in Brittany, France, has "been incredible"

and helped him immensely.

Being the only Canadian gives Phillips a sense of pride.

"I'm toting the Canadian flag, this makes me the Canadian ambassador in a lot of these ocean racing settings, which is a really nice thing to do. I've got Canadian flags on the boat, I've got my name and a Canadian flag on my van that I drive around to all the races. It's pretty special to be that, and it also leaves me with something to prove," he says.

Not just something to prove for Canada, but something to prove for Canadian sailing.

Phillips hopes to inspire the next generation of offshore racers and sailors here in Canada.

Throughout his career, Phillips has partnered with Canadian yacht clubs as much as possible to provide talks and information sessions on the sport.

With another year and a half to go in the circuit, Phillips looks ahead to the next leg on June 14, the Fastnet Race, a doubles race sailing from France to Ireland and back, where he's bringing along another Canadian crew member for the ride.

Phillips hopes the endurance sport soon finds its home here with Canadians, as there are many ways to get involved and watch the races.

"These races are so big and so gruelling that just finishing it is a massive accomplishment, and you feel that support all over the circuit," says Phillips, looking ahead to his future races. "It doesn't matter if you come first or last; if you cross that finish line, everyone around you is so happy and supportive of what you've done, and that's really motivating."

Phillips references the term "chronoception," and explains that new moments in life create more powerful memories.

"For me, right now, the way to create these memories is through offshore sailing, but everyone has access to the outdoors, which is full of opportunities to explore and experience, making your life a little longer each time."

"If this campaign stands for anything, it's get outside, put the phone down, and do something new."

Seating for Seniors coming to Mayfield West

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

New seating and accommodation are set to be introduced to Mayfield West following a motion tabled at the May 26 Council meeting.

In a motion brought forward by Councillors Dave Sheen and Christina Early, they noted the growth experienced in the resident neighbourhoods known as the Tim Manley neighbourhood, or the Eberly Woods/Caledon Trails community, also known as Mayfield West Phase 2.

In the motion, it was stated that although Mayfield West Phase 2 is home to thousands of residents, it has not yet delivered the corresponding local amenities.

It says that the neighbourhood currently lacks a "community or neighbourhood park to support residents of all ages in gathering, socializing, and building strong, complete communities."

A small seating area was installed in 2023 in collaboration with the developer to support local seniors, but the motion adds, "this amenity is no longer sufficient to meet the needs of the ever-growing population."

The Councillors added that with Wray Park anticipated to begin construction soon, it is

unlikely to be available for community use during the current season.

The motion states that Sheen and Early already took the opportunity to meet on site with Town staff to review "opportunities to enhance the existing seating area on Tim Manley Avenue as an interim community gathering space."

The motion, approved on consent, will direct staff to "expand the existing seating area on Tim Manley Avenue as quickly as possible this season to better support community gathering and social interaction."

It also directs staff to install additional concrete pads and seating in a social configuration sufficient to accommodate up to 25 adults.

When it comes to funding, the motion directs staff to be authorized to expend up to \$50,000 from the Parks Operating Budget for this purpose, or to report back to Council if an alternate funding source is more appropriate.

Staff will also be authorized to establish a new capital project, with expenditures of up to \$50,000 funded from the Tax Funded Contingency Reserve, for this purpose.

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