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TO
AMERICA**

PM Mark Carney pledged to buy Canadian. Since then, \$7.8 billion in contracts went to American corporations.

OCT 5 2026

**PRIME MINISTER
MARK CARNEY SAID
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Then federal contracts worth \$7.8 BILLION went to American companies — a 50% increase.

Canadian businesses are facing uncertainty from U.S. tariffs.

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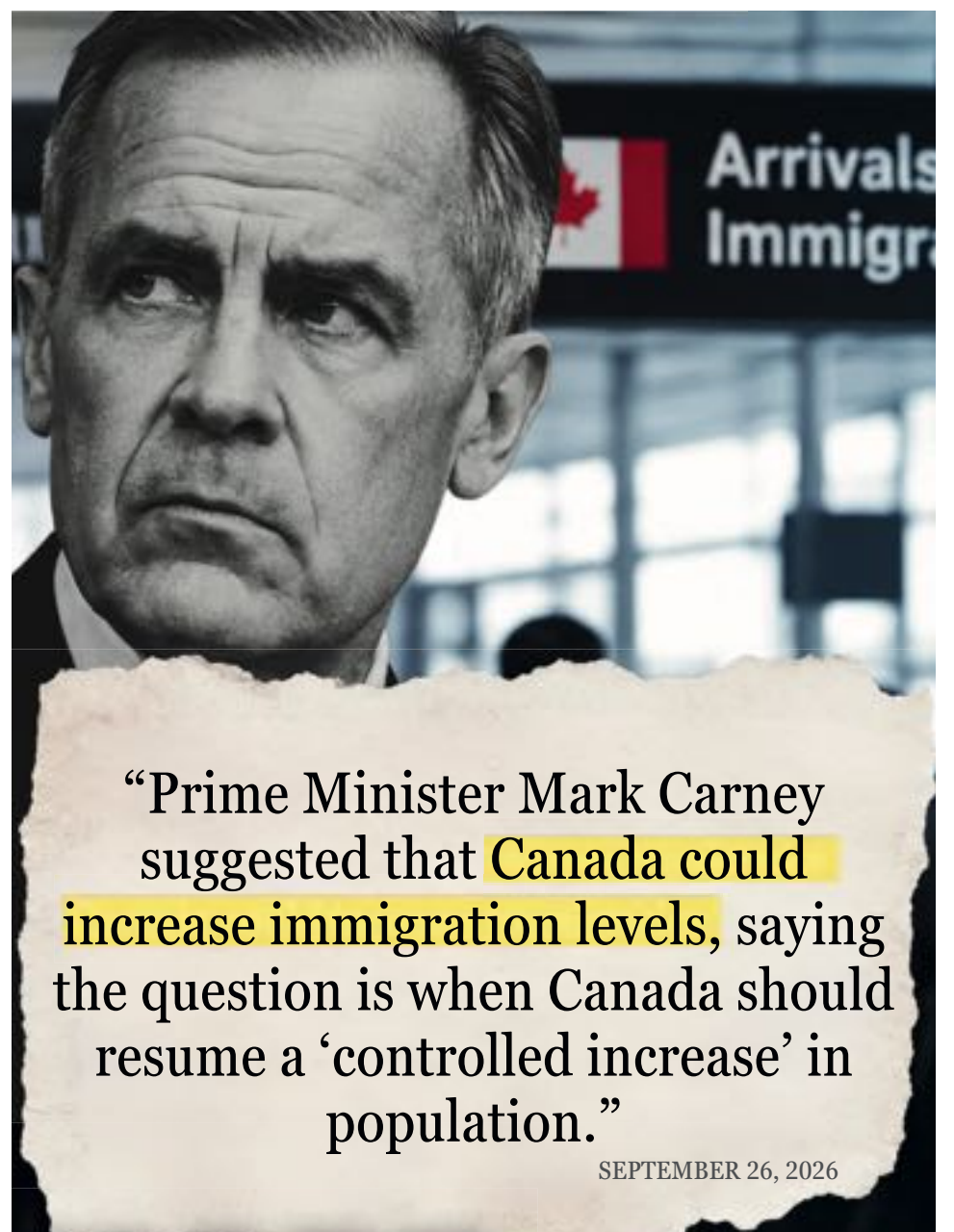
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“Prime Minister Mark Carney suggested that Canada could increase immigration levels, saying the question is when Canada should resume a ‘controlled increase’ in population.”

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

MORE IMMIGRATION?

Prime Minister Mark Carney recently suggested an increase in immigration levels is on the horizon.

Canadians are still dealing with the consequences of record population growth, including pressure on housing and health care.

Canada needs to get immigration levels under control before considering an increase.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Do you support Mark Carney increasing immigration levels?
Scan the QR code to take my quick survey.

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Thursday, October 29, 2026

Volume 46, Issue 44

Caledon Mayor-elect Christina Early, centre, celebrated election night with Councillors-elect Stan Cameron, Keri Parfitt and Heather French, and Regional Councillor-elect Dave Sheen.

PHOTO BY KATHRYN FRASER

Voters back Christina Early as Caledon's next Mayor

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A shortage of ballots may have built anticipation on election night, Monday, October 26, but Caledon learned its new mayor would be Christina Early before midnight, with the incumbent Councillor earning 12,650 votes from residents.

Due to the ballot shortage, the closure of

polls was pushed two hours to 10 p.m. in order to obtain more ballots for those looking to vote.

Prior to election day, the Town of Caledon announced the early voting turnout, with a total of 11.3 per cent of Caledon voting prior to October 26.

Advance Polling Breakdown for each Ward was as followed:

- Ward 1 - 11.5%
- Ward 2 - 13.6%

- Ward 3 - 13.0%
- Ward 4 - 11.8%
- Ward 5 - 7.6%
- Ward 6 - 10.6%

Once 10 p.m. passed, the Town of Caledon began displaying the unofficial results on its website, keeping residents updated on the results for Mayor, Council, Regional Council and School Board trustees.

Continued on Page A3

CLIMBING HAUNTED HILL

Sunday's morning fog didn't dampen spirits at Bolton Rotary's annual Haunted Hill Run/Walk – instead, it only added to the spooky atmosphere as scores of residents got an early start on their Halloween fun. For more, see Page A7.

Photo by Kathryn Fraser

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Close 2 Home marks milestone at first Casino Night

Mayor Groves reflects on community at fundraiser

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On October 23, Close 2 Home Caledon hosted their Casino Night Fundraiser to raise funds to support adults with special needs.

The mission for Close 2 Home stands on one main question that they want to be able to answer for families of adults with special needs: “Who will care for my loved one when I no longer can?”

The event was hosted at the Caesar’s Centre in Bolton and marked the first time that Close 2 Home held an all-in casino night event.

Attendees started the night with a buffet dinner and drinks to enjoy before Co-Founder Liana Cancian addressed the audience, thanking everyone for their participation.

Cancian spoke about the importance of the event to help raise funds to provide for the families trying to fill the gap and make it easier for parents to know that there will be support for those they care for when they are no longer able.

“With very limited government funding available to meet these needs, families are often left trying to fill those gaps. Parents are growing older while providing care, often without a care plan,” said Cancian.

She went on to speak about Close 2 Home and the importance of the night.

“Our vision is to create a home for adults with developmental disabilities [where they] can live alongside their peers and receive the support they need. We are proud to share that with the support of our community and in partners, we have connected with an investor who is willing to work with us to help make this home a reality. This is an incredible step forward, but a home needs more than just walls and a roof; it needs ongoing support, care and resources. The funds raised tonight will help make the day-to-day support possible,” said Cancian.

Mayor Annette Groves was next up at the podium and gave her final speech as Mayor of Caledon to those in attendance.

Throughout her remarks, Groves ac-



As her term draws to a close, Caledon Mayor Annette Groves addressed supporters of Close 2 Home at their inaugural Casino Night last week.
PHOTO BY KATHRYN FRASER

knowledge and thanked the members of Close 2 Home for all of their hard work.

“Thank you all for coming out and supporting this very worthy cause,” she said. “It takes very special people to do this. The special needs community has always been very close to my heart, and the ladies are very tenacious, they don’t stop. They’ll keep calling you until you pick up that phone...and do something. I always say, when you start your day visiting some of these individuals, you will always have a great day. The rest of your day will always be filled with laughter and sunshine.

“I encourage all of you to take the visit sometime to these groups with these individuals and really understand and see how blessed we are and how we should not complain, because all they do is they give you love. I thank all of you for doing what you have done.”

Ending her speech for the night, Mayor Groves concluded that although she will no

longer be Mayor of Caledon, her support for Close 2 Home does not end here.

“It’s been 26 years that I have served this community. It has been in honour and a privilege to serve this community. As I retire, I will leave you with this: legacy is not what we build for ourselves. Legacy is what we build for others to stand on. With that, I thank you for being there for me for 26 years, and I will continue to be there for you after I retire,” said Groves.

After the speeches were finished, poker, roulette and blackjack tables were open for attendees to try their hands – and possibly take home a win.

In addition to card games, there were also a number of other competitive contests for players to try their luck at.

Two of these games included hitting a nail into a wood table in one hit, as well as one main highlight of the night: the prosciutto-holding contest where players had to hold up 6.7kg of prosciutto with a

straight arm and be timed to see who could hold it the longest.

The line for the prosciutto-holding contest was quite long and many members tried their luck, and each turn cost \$10 to enter.

The winning time for the prosciutto-holding contest was two minutes.

Reflecting on the event, Cancian said she was grateful to all that attended the event and is hoping that this will be an event that Close 2 Home holds again.

“It’s very moving to know that everyone’s out there to support something that they believe in. It’s a cause near and dear to my heart. So, it’s very touching to know that there are other people that see the cause and believe in it and are there to support you,” said Cancian.

For more information about Close 2 Home, visit www.close2homecaledon.ca.



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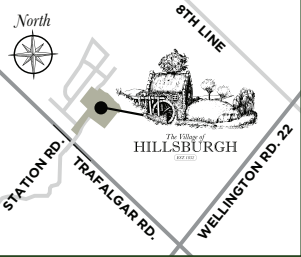
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Mayor-elect Christina Early, her team, and supporters had much to celebrate on Monday night. **PHOTO BY KATHRYN FRASER**

Caledon elects 2026-2030 Council

Continued from FRONT

The results were clear around 11.30 p.m., when Christina Early was declared Caledon’s new Mayor-elect.

Early celebrated her win over Mario Russo at St. James Anglican Church with family, friends and other members of the community.

“Monday night was certainly exciting and eventful!” said Mayor-elect Early. “I felt very confident going into the election. My team and I had spent months knocking on doors and speaking with residents across Caledon.

“As election day approached, it became increasingly clear that we had strong support throughout the community. Our final weekend canvassing in Bolton reinforced that confidence. And I’m a numbers person. I had done my homework, ran the numbers, and felt good about where we stood.

“Election night did have a few unexpected twists. The Clerk made the unusual decision to extend voting until 10 p.m., and CP24 prematurely reported that my opponent had won, based on the advance poll results. Fortunately, my team was carefully tracking the results as they came in, and we knew we had mathematically secured the win well before the official announcement.

“Being surrounded by my family, friends, volunteers and so many wonderful community supporters made the evening incredibly special. It was a night I won’t soon forget.”

In addition to residents, many of Caledon’s newly elected Council members were also in attendance including Ward 1 Councillor-elect Keri Parfitt, Ward 3 Councillor-elect Stan Cameron, Ward 4 Councillor-elect Heather French, and Regional Councillor-elect of Wards 1,2 and 3 Dave Sheen.

Sheen won his position with 7,037 votes.

“This is the craziest job interview you could ever imagine. Talking to so many people in Wards 1,2 and 3 hearing how they care about their community and want to make it better I’m humbled,” said Sheen. “I’m humbled that residents would vote for me and trust me to do the best I can on their behalf and in both Town Council and now with the Region.”

Parfitt received 1,499 votes.

“It feels great to be elected to represent Ward 1,” she said. “There was a lot of work and effort that went into this from so many people and so many volunteers and we all had so much help and it feels wonderful to be at the end of it.”

Cameron received 1,814 votes.

“I’m so excited. I’m not sure that I can describe the joy that I feel, and it’s not just joy for me but joy for the team that I’m joining,” said Cameron. “I really believe that we are a team that will be able to bring respect back to Town Hall, where people will feel safe, where people will feel comfortable, where people will want to come to work in Caledon.”

French received 1,566 votes.

“I’m super excited that the people put their trust in me and I’m excited to get started and get to work representing the people of Ward 4,” she said.

Wards 2 and 5 also celebrated its new Councilors with Jagraj Sekhon securing the role of Ward 2 Councillor and Diana Mollicone becoming Ward 5 Councillor.

“Thank you to every voter, volunteer and supporter who made this possible. I look forward to serving our community at Council and finishing what we started together,” said Sekhon.

Added Mollicone: “It was honestly surreal to find out I was elected. I just kept refreshing the live tally and the messages were rolling in. I’m looking forward to getting back to everyone on their issues from my notes I took at the door.”

Ward 6 re-elected incumbent Councillor Cosimo Napoli for another term with 1,647 votes.

“Thank you, Ward 6! I am truly honoured and grateful to have been re-elected as your Area Councillor,” said Napoli. “Thank you to everyone who placed their trust in me, supported my campaign and took the time to vote.”

More information about the election results can be found on <https://www.caledon.ca/en/government/election-landing-page.aspx>

Caledon’s new Mayor-elect, and newly elected and returning Council members will step into their roles on November 15.

Honour the fallen as Caledon hosts Remembrance Day observances

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As we approach Remembrance Day, many Remembrance Day Ceremonies will be hosted by the Town of Caledon, both leading up to and on November 11.

There will be four different ceremonies, and they will take place on four separate days in various locations across the community.

Ceremony Dates and Locations:

- Sunday, November 1 at Mono Mills Cenotaph, 35 Victoria Crescent, Caledon, taking place at 11 a.m.
- Sunday, November 8, at Alton Legion Hall, 1267 Queen Street, taking place at 10:15 a.m.
- Sunday, November 8, at Bolton Cenotaph, Centennial Drive Laurel Hill Cemetery, at 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 11, at Caledon East Cenotaph, Town Hall, 6311 Old Church Road, starting at 10:50 a.m.

The ceremonies in Bolton and Caledon East will be led by the Town of Caledon.

Any individual interested in finding out more information or sponsoring the laying of a wreath can do so by contacting events@caledon.ca

Those looking for information about the Alton Legion Ceremony are asked to contact the Alton Legion at 519-942-4021.



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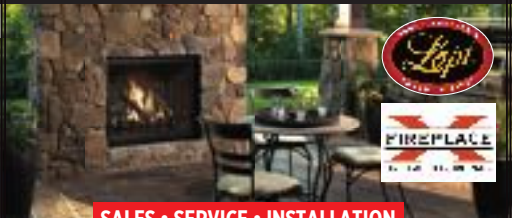
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CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATION

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Child Sexual Exploitation Unit, with assistance from the 31 Division - Peel Regional Police, have arrested and charged a Wasaga Beach resident following a child sexual abuse and exploitation investigation.

“On Tuesday, June 23, 2026, police executed a search warrant at a residence in Wasaga Beach and seized a number of electronic devices,” say Police.

As a result of the investigation, on Saturday, September 12, 2026, a 33-year-old from Wasaga Beach was arrested and charged with the following Criminal Code offences:

- Make child sexual abuse and exploitation material, section 163.1(2);
- Access child sexual abuse and exploitation material, section 163.1(4.1);
- Voyeurism, section 162(1);
- Possession of child sexual abuse and exploitation material, section 163.1(4) - two counts.

The accused was scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Collingwood on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.

The charges have not been proven.

“The OPP will continue to identify and pursue individuals who use technology to exploit children. Parents are reminded to take a proactive approach to help protect

their children from online sexual exploitation by educating their children on internet safety.”

Parents can find resources at cybertip.ca or protectchildren.ca.

HALLIBURTON RESIDENT CHARGED IN BREAK-AND-ENTERS

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged a Haliburton resident with multiple offences following an investigation into a series of break-and-enters and thefts in the Town of Shelburne, Town of Mono and Township of Mulmur.

“On Wednesday September 2, 2026, the accused attended a storage facility on Victoria Street in the Town of Shelburne, where they allegedly entered several storage units,” say Police. “During the incidents, the accused reportedly covered his face in an apparent attempt to avoid detection.

“On Friday September 11, 2026, the accused allegedly attended a rural property in the Township of Mulmur on an electric scooter and stole a side-by-side utility terrain vehicle (UTV). The vehicle was later recovered at a different address.

“On Saturday September 12, 2026, the accused allegedly attended two separate rural properties in the Town of Mono,

where break-and-enters occurred. During one of these incidents, a side-by-side UTV was also stolen and later recovered at a different address.

“On Tuesday September 22, 2026, the accused was arrested on the outstanding Dufferin County warrants and subsequently charged in connection with the incidents.”

As a result of the investigation, Dale McCrea, a 40-year-old male from Haliburton, has been charged with:

- Break, Enter a place - with intent to commit indictable offence - two counts;
 - Break, Enter dwelling house - commit indictable offence;
 - Theft of Motor Vehicle - two counts;
 - Disguise with Intent.
- The charges have not been proven.

“The Dufferin OPP encourages residents to remain vigilant, report suspicious activity, and look out for their own property and that of their neighbours. Simple steps can help prevent theft and keep our communities safe

- Lock It or Lose It! Secure your homes, vehicles, sheds, garages, and other outbuildings. Keep valuables out of sight, lock doors and windows, and never leave keys or garage door openers unsecured. Take a moment to check that your property is secure before leaving;
- Residents are also encouraged to participate in the OPP’s CAM-Safe program, which allows police to identify security camera locations that may assist in investigations. Security cameras can be a valuable tool in helping police investigate crime and protect our communities;
- If you see something suspicious, don’t hesitate to report it to police. Being aware of your surroundings, keeping an eye out for your neighbours, and taking steps to safeguard your property can make a difference. Working together, we can help deter crime and keep our communities safe.

Members of the Dufferin OPP remain

committed to public safety through proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities.

If you suspect someone is driving while impaired, call 9-1-1. To report non-emergency information, contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

SUSPECTS SOUGHT FOLLOWING TWO ALLEGED ASSAULTS ON BRAMPTON BUS

Peel Regional Police’s Special Victims Unit (SVU) is seeking the public’s assistance in identifying a suspect following two alleged stranger sexual assaults on Brampton Transit Züm buses. Investigators believe the incidents are connected and that the same suspect is responsible for both offences.

“Between October 1 and October 15, investigators received reports of alleged sexual assaults involving two victims, including one youth, while travelling on Brampton Transit Züm buses,” say Police. “In each incident, an unidentified male suspect boarded the 511C bus at Humber College Terminal between approximately 4:20 p.m. and 5:11 p.m., sat near the victim, and engaged in unwanted sexual touching during the trip to Brampton Gateway Terminal at 501 Main St. S.

“The suspect is described as a male, approximately 5’10” to 5’11” tall, in his early 20s to early 30s, with a thin build, moustache, and black beard. He has long black hair, possibly worn in a bun. During the incidents, he was observed wearing a black baseball cap, a sage-green hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans, beige running shoes, and carrying a blue Under Armour backpack.”

Anyone with information regarding these incidents, or who may have had contact with the suspect is asked to contact investigators with the Special Victims Unit at 905-453-2121, ext. 3460.

Peel Regional Police recognizes the profound and lasting impact that sexual violence can have on survivors, their families, and communities. Individuals affected by sexual violence are encouraged to access support services when they feel ready, regardless of whether they choose to report to police. Victim Services of Peel provides confidential support, information, resources, and referrals and can be reached 24/7 at 905-568-1068.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders

7. Containing salt

13. Fortified wine

14. Edible mollusk

16. Blood type

17. Make a comparison

19. Government lawyer

20. “Game of Thrones” actor Ciaran

22. 8th month of the year (abbr.)

23. Very willing

25. ___ ex machina

26. Satisfies

28. New Zealand mountain

29. A doctrine

30. Popular Dodge truck model

31. Dekagram

33. Naturally occurring solid material

34. Company higher-up

36. Villains

38. Cricket frog genus

40. Influential early psychologist

41. Endured

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease

2. Commercial

3. Craft supplies

4. Containers

5. A way to save for your golden years

6. Common Arabic greeting

7. Bulged downward

8. Acquired brain injury

9. Lay about

10. Intestinal

11. Not yes

12. In a way, pleased

13. Messianic figure in Islam

15. Resulting from intense conviction

18. Not in

21. Number above the line in a fraction

24. Lawn pest

26. Pouch

27. Ancient language (abbr.)

30. Start anew

32. Wild flower

35. Fourteen

37. Graphical user interface

38. Facing the same way

39. Campaigns

42. Touch lightly

43. “Boardwalk Empire” actress

46. Violent seizure of property

47. One who supports the Pope

49. Malaise

50. Body fluid

52. Inauthentic person

54. Title of respect

55. Moth genus

57. Central Japan city

59. Silk garment

62. Draw from

63. Automobile

66. A male

68. Powerful government lawyer

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Fog doesn’t dampen spooky fun at Haunted Hill Run

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Bolton Rotary Club hosted their annual Haunted Hill Charity Run on October 25.

This is the 13th run hosted by the Rotary Club and participants had the opportunity to participate in either a 1k or 5k.

The event was hosted at Rotary Place and due to weather conditions with lots of fog many participants agreed that it felt like a particularly spooky Haunted Run.

The Fun Run 1k started at 9:30am and the 5k started at 10am. This event was free and open for all to attend, but participants had to wear a costume.

The route for each race was a little different; the 1k route led participants around the park located near the building while the 5k led runners along Kingsview/Longwood and into the Bolton Camp along the Murray Stewart Trail.

Once participants had completed the race, they received a medal and were able to cheer on fellow runners or go and enjoy snacks, which included pancakes, hot dogs, juice, coffee, hot chocolate, and more.

There were also a number of activities for kids to do, including a scavenger hunt and a temporary tattoo booth.

Many attendees had attended the event in past years including residents Sarah, Caitlin and Brandy, who are avid runners and have been partaking in the Haunted Hill run for many years.

Last year, the group ran as inflatables but this year they decided to go as “old gran-nies” with Sarah even practicing running with a cane.

“It brings us a lot of joy and laughter,” said Sarah. “It’s the best”.

Karen Fast is the organizer for the event and has been part of the Rotary Club for over 20 years. She said this route was not the first location for the run when it first started but changed over to the location in the past few years.

She explained the name of the trail holds a special significance as well.



Caitlin, a four-year participant, Brandy, a three-year participant, and Sarah, a two-year participant, are pictured warming up for the 5k.
PHOTO BY KATHRYN FRASER

“We named the Murray Stewart Trail that the runners run down through the Bolton camp after one of our members. He’s been in the club more than 50 years,” she said. “Murray Stewart is a legend in our community, so it’s nice to have the run down the street into the park and then back again.”

Fast said that over the years the event has changed and grown with many people participating compared to its earliest days. Up until 2020, she explained, the run was not free and participants had to pay to participate. That changed when COVID-19 hit

and it was decided that they would make the run free for all to participate.

“We depend on sponsors for any costs we incur, and then we decided [over] the last few years, to make it for free, but to ask people for the non-perishable for the food bank and we have a lot of donations today. It’s very happy,” said Fast.

Fast also recognized all the hard work offered by dedicated volunteers.

“We depend on our volunteers to help with this as well. The Alpha Dogs have been in full force today,” said Fast. “We’ve got the Girl Guides here as well, and they’re doing the cookies and helping us with the food. They’ve been cooking pancakes for

a while, so there’s just pancakes and hot dogs today and then any kind of snacks that they want and hot chocolate etc. We are very grateful for all their help.”

Looking at the success of this event Fast said they have received lots of feedback over the years and she is excited to see what next year’s run brings.

“The feedback is unbelievable. We’re so thrilled that people appreciate the fact that it’s a free event. They feel like they can bring their friends and family and it’s a fun Sunday morning and kids out and exercising.... The feedback from the families is just sweet. It’s so wonderful, amazing,” she said.

Watermelon Dental shares Top 5 worst treats for your teeth on Halloween

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Halloween, many trick-or-treaters will receive a variety of different treats from chips to candy to chocolate bars.

Watermelon Dental knows the harm that candy can cause on teeth and say that there are some treats that are worse than others.

Here are the top five treats claimed to be the worst for trick-or-treaters.

- Toffies – Tootsie Rolls, Laffy Taffy or anything very sticky. It can break teeth, take out fillings, and it’s so sticky that you can’t even brush it off your teeth. It sticks to all the little grooves in your teeth.
- Gummies – Gummy bears, sour patch kids etc. because they are also very sticky. Sour gummies also have a combination of being acidic and sweet and the combination of that destroys your enamel.
- Lollipops or anything that stays your mouth a long time. Because then the sugar is in your mouth an extended period.
- Candy coating – Skittles, smarties etc. They stick to your teeth and can be difficult to get them off of your teeth.
- Anything that sticks to your teeth – Sweet Tarts, Air Heads, Hot Tamales etc. anything that sticks to your teeth.

However, Dr. Sanj Mohanta says that this doesn’t mean you cannot have candy, but there are some that are better than others.

“You can enjoy Halloween without it harming your teeth very much by sticking to food, sticking to treats that aren’t sticking. For example, pure chocolate, like Aero and Hershey, Reese... none of those candies have anything that sticks to your teeth.”

One thing that Dr. Sanj hopes to

help children avoid during Halloween is getting cavities.

While brushing your teeth does help there are a few additional tips and tricks that Dr. Sanj recommends.

“Since a lot of times the toothbrush can’t get it off your teeth, if you eat a hard, crunchy fruits or vegetables, like apples, carrots, cucumbers, after you eat sweets, it helps dislodge it off of your teeth. Hard cheese will neutralize the acid from what you just ate. Also, it helps break down the food. Hard cheese, like cheddar cheese, has something called casein in it, which helps which helps your teeth. Plus, it has calcium and vitamin D. Hard cheese, carrots, cucumbers, apples all act like a natural toothbrush.”

When it comes to candies such as lollipops Dr. Sanj recommends the 5-minute rule.

“Instead of sucking on it for a long time, it’s better to eat your candy in five minutes than an hour. Because if you eat it in five minutes, the sugar is only exposed to your teeth for five minutes. But if it takes you an hour, then the sugars on your teeth for an hour. With my kids, I used to have a five-minute rule with lollipops,” says Dr. Sanj.

She also points out that while these five items might seem to be the worst, it doesn’t mean that other items will not harm your teeth.

“Cookies and crackers are also bad for your teeth. People think crackers and chips are okay because they’re salty rather than sweet, but they break down to sugar, and they stick to your teeth for a long time. Be careful with chips and crackers,” says Dr. Sanj.

Looking towards Halloween Night, Watermelon Dental will be handing out sugar-free watermelon lollipops and will also be collecting any leftover candy during the week after Halloween and donate to the Caledon Community Services’ Food Exchange.

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Now the work begins...

The ballots have been cast, votes have been counted and your collective efforts have determined the direction our communities will take over the next four years.

Regardless of whether or not you agree with the outcome, I can only hope you found something to vote for rather than a laundry list of things to vote against.

I don't know about the rest of you, but voting AGAINST something just isn't as satisfying as voting FOR something. Sure, if you're of that particular mindset, the idea of "sticking it to" whoever is in your crosshairs can feel good in this age of instant gratification, but that warm-and-fuzzy feeling doesn't last for four full years.

Hopefully your warm-and-fuzzies will indeed be in place for the long-haul. If not, I hope it galvanizes you to look for further opportunities to make a difference during the term ahead, or think seriously about the difference you might be able to make as a candidate when the time comes.

Having covered municipal elections in 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, and now 2026, I consider myself well-versed in the process, particularly in the communities I cover, but this election brought about a municipal first: the first time voting in a municipal election in a community that is not part of my "beat."

It was a very unusual feeling. Perhaps due to being so immersed in the minutia of the platforms presented by each and every candidate within the "beat" areas, the fact I had more of a role to play in the civic process here beyond writing and editing candidate profiles, compiling answers to candidate questionnaires, and covering individual issues as they arose, my own choices where I live came close to being an afterthought.

Not on my watch, so I spent the better part of the week leading up to October 26 doing as deep a dive as I could into the candidates in my area. Thankfully, I found plenty to vote for – and, thankfully, not too much to vote against – and cast my ballot Monday morning, satisfied I made the decision that was best aligned with my own personal viewpoints.

I hope that's a feeling that is shared far and wide this week as Mayors-elect, Councilors-elect, and Trustees-elect, start laying the foundations for the next four years.

Those who put their names on the ballot this year are to be commended – not only for taking the initiative to develop a platform and take it door-to-door to voters, but for simply giving the electorate a choice.

According to statistics released last month by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), there were 400 acclamations in Ontario's municipal elections this year, a decrease from the 548 experienced in 2022. Now, of course, this could be a sign of either satisfaction with the one person to step forward for the job or a sign of apathy in that nobody else wanted it, but, at the end of the day, it's always nice to have a choice and a healthy exchange of ideas amongst candidates.

AMO's data is broken down even further. According to their stats, 104 Head of Council races (Mayor and Reeve) were acclaimed, 29 per cent of who are female. This, compared to 23 per cent of 2022 candidates being female, while, overall the number of female candidates was up seven per cent compared to the previous ballot.

Through a different lens, 19 of Ontario's 444 municipalities saw their entire Councils acclaimed back into power. This translates into five per cent of Ontario municipalities going down this route, compared to eight per cent in 2022, but it's still a staggering statistic to consider in our communities when the fight for our

limited number of seats was "spirited" to say the absolute least.

To the officials in communities where the entire slate of representatives were returned without a fight, congratulations! Evidently, you're doing something right! To those who weren't content with the status quo, but still found any number of reasons to sit back and do nothing, perhaps you will take this as your cue that you need to be the change you want to see in your neighbourhood.

That, however, brings up another question I'm sure will crop up in the coming days and weeks – why bother?

Before registrations for the 2026 Municipal Elections opened this past May, it was a question I pondered in this space in the context of our education trustees.

The outgoing municipal term was a fraught one for trustees across Ontario with the Ministry of Education keen to flex its muscles over the day-to-day operations of our school boards and trustees in both Peel and York, amongst other jurisdictions, effectively sidelined while the Ministry did just that. They kept their titles but not much else.

In a situation where the position you've been elected to can be snatched away on the turn of a dime, one could be forgiven for wondering just why candidates would invest so much time and resources in securing a seat that might be pulled out from under them. The fact they did so speaks, I believe, to their passion and drive to make a difference, but only time – and the fickle finger of political fate – will determine if they are given the time to meet their objectives.

But, after this election, I wonder how many candidates for other positions are also asking the question, "Why bother?"

Now that the election is behind us, I have to say that in the five municipal battles I've been involved with, this was surely the most vitriolic trip to the polls I've yet witnessed.

Thankfully, with some exceptions across Ontario, the vitriol can't be attributed to the candidates themselves, but rather some of the more engaged and passionate residents with favourite candidates in the race, and, indeed, some of the more engaged and passionate – and often largely anonymous – social media pundits who insinuated themselves into the conversation.

Don't get me wrong, dialogue is essential in any democracy, regardless of what level of government is being discussed, but this season was rife in online misinformation, sometimes deliberately so, along with extremely personal attacks that were based more in personal opinion than fact, objectiveless insinuations, and an overall atmosphere that was nothing less than toxic.

Those who weathered this particular storm, whether or not the votes went your way on Monday, should be commended for doing so, and a double congratulations if you resisted the urge to pile on.

Recent years have underscored just how fragile democracies the world-over can be, and they're often only as strong as the individuals who take part in it, whether their names are on the ballot or whether you're simply casting one.

If things are allowed to remain as toxic as they have been, will it be an environment where emerging community leaders will even want to jump into the race if proverbial trials-by-fire are more the rule rather than the exception? If the cost ultimately paid is far beyond the dollars handed over to process your nomination papers? If not, where will that leave our communities?

Perhaps this is a question Monday night's victors should consider as they chart their paths to 2030.

eliminate illegal truck yards and bring driving simulators to Caledon high schools will continue with our independently raised funds, where our books are always open for anyone to review.

Please stay tuned to our Facebook and Instagram pages for how you can help the four local organizations who we were planning to donate to. As always - Let's keep it loud, Caledon!

AMANDA CORBETT
CO-DIRECTOR, CCRSA



Allowing ourselves to linger for no reason

by Mark Pavilons



The Finns have a special word – "oleilu" – which means lingering or spending time without any particular purpose. It denotes the need to allow yourself to simply exist, even for a little while.

Love the concept.

Here in North America, we'd call that laziness or lack of motivation or direction. Sad.

Sad, because there's so much to be gained from simply listening to a babbling brook or staring deep into the forest.

Lingering is almost rebellious as we rush through meals, speed through conversations and scroll past images with lightning speed.

Merriam-Webster has some interesting definitions of linger, such as "to move slowly, be slow in parting or in quitting something." It also cites that linger means "to remain existent although often waning in strength, importance or influence."

Wow, it seems even our lexicons have a strange view of this activity, or lack thereof.

But, my friends, I liken lingering to remaining in a particular state, place, or situation for a prolonged period of time, often beyond what is considered normal or expected.

It involves a sense of reluctance or delay in moving on, whether it be from a physical location, an emotional attachment, or a thought process.

Clara Schumann hit the nail on the head when she remarked: "Why hurry over beautiful things? Why not linger and enjoy them?"

That's why we humans seek solace, comfort and the bounty that nature brings. I remember our annual family vacations at The Delawana Inn at Honey Harbour. The first thing I did was leap out of the car, get to the water's edge and simply stare at the scenery. Shortly thereafter, I'd find the nearest shore, whip off my shoes and walk in the water, as if it were some healing elixir.

I think it actually is, and my Picean wife would wholeheartedly agree.

"Il dolce far niente" is an Italian phrase, and philosophy, that roughly translates as "the sweetness of doing nothing."

To Italians, it can mean having a cup of coffee with a friend, heading to the beach or sitting idly on a bench watching people go by.

The Dutch call it "niksen," literally doing nothing or being idle. They embrace the idea of sitting in a chair and just looking out a window.

How many of us here in hectic southern Ontario have spent much time watching the world go by?

Zhuangzi once said doing nothing is the "ultimate happiness."

I concur, and yet who has the time to just chill, or sit at the dock of the bay wasting time? Maybe some

of you enjoyed those moments over the summer, but play time is over!

The crazy thing is the real world, and all of its stresses, is just outside our door.

From chemo and bank woes, to car insurance and grocery bills, I have my hands full.

While dealing with cancer, I've changed my attitude several times. I now make it a point of trying to reach a place – a calm relaxing spot – every day. It can be on the couch, with the TV news turned down low; engaging in my hobby of model airplane building; taking a drive, not for errands but for pleasure. Serenity can be found almost anywhere, you just have to look for it.

I have long thought our European counterparts have figured out life better than us. Aside from siestas, they do tend to take everything a bit slower and easier. They enjoy their meals and soak up camaraderie at every opportunity. They bask in the sunshine. There is more to life than increasing its speed!

Ido remember life before "Sunday shopping," and I recall all the public debates and people arguing that making it a regular day would ruin society.

There was a time, my friends, when Sundays involved sitting on the porch and afternoon naps. We listened to the radio, or records. Friends would drop by unannounced because they knew we would be home, and they were welcomed with open arms.

I think our society went down hill a little over a decade ago, when everyone grabbed their first smart phone. While these things opened up a whole new world – and prevented us from being idle – it has become the proverbial Pandora's Box. Be careful what you unleash unto the world!

Today, these devices suck up several hours each day – time when we could be lingering, or doing nothing.

Sure, they help pass the time, reveal interesting information and the daily news events, but they are distracting.

School boards are pulling back and limiting the use of smart phones and smart boards in classrooms. Phones are banned in certain areas and situations.

All the beautiful photos, memes and videos in the world can't take the place of watching the leaves turn to their annual fall shade. Even with AI and sound effects, moving pictures can't replace the ocean's waves, or your favourite spot on the dock at your cottage. They can't replace that lingering, peaceful feeling you get when the leaves rustle and water laps the rocky shore.

These images are cold, lifeless scenes, to be filed in our huge personal reference library. To what end?

This has impacted our lives so much that many are calling for less screen time, cutting the power cord as it were.

We should all unplug for a few hours each day, to really experience life.

Some will argue that lingering is unproductive and a waste of valuable time.

Really?

I want to stare all of the world's unbelievable wonders. I want the image of all of God's creations to be burned into my brain, so when I leave this earth, I have so many mental images to remember.

We all may well be lingering, during our next journey in the great beyond.

Get in the practice now, while you can!

Our Readers Write

CCRSA provides status update on donation

The Caledon Community Road Safety Advocacy (CCRSA) group directors have an update to our previous open letter. We have been contacted by Mayor Groves and been asked to return the donation from the Mayor's Gala.

Despite our previous commitment and transparency to distribute the funds to four local organizations who make valuable contributions to our community - we will return the funds as the Mayor has requested.

That said, our efforts to improve road safety,

eliminate illegal truck yards and bring driving simulators to Caledon high schools will continue with our independently raised funds, where our books are always open for anyone to review.

Please stay tuned to our Facebook and Instagram pages for how you can help the four local organizations who we were planning to donate to. As always - Let's keep it loud, Caledon!

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A Glimpse of Hope: A new initiative to bring comfort and joy to those going through cancer treatment

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new initiative has begun to help bring cheer to those going through cancer treatment.

A Glimpse of Hope was started to bring care packages to those going through cancer treatment. The idea came from 21-year-old Founder and Executive Director Olivia Sinisi who made a basket for her own mother who was going through treatment.

“It began with my mom. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2023 and then, unfortunately, her cancer came back this year. I just remember it being so scary and so overwhelming for us and having already been through that experience as a family, I had a better understanding of how difficult chemotherapy sessions could be,” says Sinsi. “I just wanted to make her experience this time around a little bit more comfortable.

“I also wanted to take something that was very frightening for all of us and find a small way to make it feel a little bit more positive and a little bit less frightening. I made her a care package with one blanket, a colouring book, and a card telling her that she’s got this and it made me really happy to be able to do something for her, even when so much of the situation was beyond my control.”

Just the simple act of giving the basket turned into a brand-new idea after Sinisi saw the reaction her mom had to the basket.

“Seeing her reaction, it stayed with me, and I began thinking about other people who were going through chemotherapy, and how much they might appreciate a small gesture like this”, says Sinisi.

Since then, Sinisi has started A Glimpse of Hope and has begun working with William Osler Health System to prepare the first baskets for donation.

“We reached out to William Osler and they provided us with a wish list of comfort care items and it consists of items of Tim Horton’s gift cards, unscented moisturizers, lip bombs, tissues, mouthwash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, the blankets, non-flip socks, shirty beanies, peppermint tea bags, journals, and pens, colouring books, and hand sanitizers,” says Sinisi.

The first 25 packages will be donated on November 5 at Brampton Civic Hospital and will mark the first milestone for A Glimpse of Hope.

Once those comfort baskets have been delivered, A Glimpse of Hope will begin working to create more baskets and collaborating with other treatment centres.

“We do have plans to work with Wellspring Chinguacousy, another cancer facility in Brampton. We have

a tour with them on November 6 and, from there, we’ll figure out what they need, what their patients need... [and] how many more gift bags we can make,” says Sinisi.

To Sinisi, this initiative represents more than just providing items to those going through treatment.

“I just really wanted people to remember that there’s so much more than a cancer diagnosis and a cancer patient. I think it’s so easy to get caught up in the medical side of things that, and it becomes so frightening that I really just wanted people to remember that they’re human first, and that people are thinking about them, people are rooting for them, and that they’ve got this,” says Sinisi.

Looking back on how this all started with one simple care package to now, Sinisi says she is proud of all the hard work that has been accomplished and is thankful for all those that have helped along the way.

“It means a lot. This started off as just one singular package for my mom. I had the idea of maybe other people would appreciate this, and I didn’t realize how, big this could be, and how much people genuinely care about things like this, says Sinisi. “It really does mean a lot, because the more people that receive these packages, for me, it’s more people that I’m helping or bringing some comfort or joy to. I think that’s important.”

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



All good things....

It seems I’m fond of quotes these last few weeks and after Monday night’s decisive election victory for Mayor-Elect Christina Early, I’m reminded of another: “Good things come to those who wait.” And my goodness, Caledon, have we ever been waiting! It wasn’t made easy, either, what with problems with paper ballots and extended polling hours, we truly did have to wait until the 11th hour to hear the good news. Change is coming, and not a moment too soon.

In my first time calling an election, it was both exhilarating and exhausting to be in the hot seat, live to air and talking about all the candidates, sharing tidbits of information on incumbents vs. newcomers, and sharing with local audiences what some of the key election concerns facing Caledon residents were. In a show that was planned for 90 minutes, having to stretch it out for a little over an additional 60+ minutes was challenging! When numbers finally started to appear at around 10:20 p.m., there were initially a few “neck ‘n neck” races, particularly in Wards One and Six and briefly too, for the mayoral contest. However, it didn’t take very long to begin to notice the tidal wave of change.

It was reassuring to know that more Caledon residents than in recent memory knew the importance of this election to our future and took the time to vote. I’m sure final, fully vetted numbers won’t appear for a few more days, but voter turnout was pegged at around 23,250 (or 34.17%). That beats 2022 numbers by a small, but noticeable margin. Would more voter turnout have been better? Yes, but enough of you clearly recognized it was time for a change, so thank you for taking some of your time to come out and participate in democracy! The results speak for themselves and judging by the overall behaviour, comportment and performance of those now elected, during the long campaign season, good times are on the horizon.

To be clear, I’m not so naive as to suggest the future will be smooth sailing. Change is coming and our new Mayor-Elect acknowledged that throughout her campaign. What IS coming is a change in leadership style, a change in the level of cooperation, the level of information sharing, and dare I say it, perhaps even some stability in the Town offices. From the date of registration to election night, Mayor-Elect Early conducted her campaign with the dignity and respect one should demand of the office. She was on point in debates, answered the questions honestly, even when challenged on potentially difficult or unpopular decisions she

has made in the past were discussed. She said “No” to Strong Mayor powers from the start, “No” to developer dollars from the start, and “No” when asked if Caledon was the right place for a data centre.

From the beginning of the Swan Lake fiasco, Mayor-Elect Early supported the community-led initiative of another election night success story, Keri Parfitt, who won a seat in Ward One after the retirement of Lynn Kieran. Unlike what one third party advertiser might have you believe, Early even went so far as to meet with the developer who owned the land in an attempt to negotiate a possible deal that would have enabled the CVC to purchase and maintain the fully rehabilitated lake. I’m glad to see, as written about last week, that Caledon voters were not fooled again by a heavily edited photo of that day (or any other “shenanigans”) that attempted to link her to the developer in an implied unsavoury manner.

In the end, Caledon voters did indeed see through all of the election hoopla and in a decisive victory, Mayor-Elect Christina Early beat Regional Councillor Mario Russo, capturing 54+% of the decided vote to his 38%. (12,650 votes - 8,934). In Ward One, the margin of victory was a little closer with aforementioned Keri Parfitt beating the next closest candidate, Tom Sweeney, by around 200 votes. In Ward Five, Diana Mollicone secured almost 1,000 more votes than her nearest competitor Anthony Caputo, and Dave Sheen might possibly lay claim to the most decisive victory of all by securing 7,037 votes, which was more than both of the other candidates vying for the position combined. Congratulations to Stan Cameron and Heather French, who also won handily; to Regional Councillor Tony Rosa who was acclaimed, and also, to Cosimo Napoli who secured a victory with only a little over 300 votes separating him from Carmela Palkowski, one of the three hard-working ladies of CCR-SA fame. Finally in Ward Two, a hard fought battle was eventually won by Jagraj Sekhon.

I’m sure my colleagues at the paper will provide you with an admirable breakdown of all the numbers and stats including school trustees and any other details I may have glossed over here.

Election night was tiring and no doubt candidates are now madly also driving around town collecting signs to ensure they are in compliance. What won’t get tiring, at least not anytime soon, is writing these few words: Congratulations Mayor-Elect Christina Early!

Primary care expansion aims to reach thousands in Dufferin, Caledon

BY SAM ODROWSKI

The Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team (HOHC OHT) and the Dufferin Area Family Health Team (DAFHT) are expanding primary care services to help residents of Dufferin and Caledon access care while waiting for a family doctor.

The expansion will use a “hub-and-spoke” model of care, working to establish care clinics where residents without a family doctor can access a primary care team while waiting to be matched with a local physician. It looks to connect more than 6,500 people in Dufferin County and Caledon to primary care by early 2027, with the remaining residents targeted for connection by 2029.

“This implementation plan represents a collaboration between a number of HOHC OHT community partners committed to expanding primary care delivery in our community,” said Dave Pearson, Executive Director of HOHC OHT. “Through this ‘hub-and-spoke’ model of care, we aim to enhance our local health care system with multidisciplinary teams to deliver better care to more people across our vast geography.”

Through the expansion, physicians and nurse practitioners will be assisted in connecting patients to specialized programs and providers. This is aimed at freeing up physician time so they can take on more patients.

The expansion is also intended to improve access to diabetes and memory clinics. It will be implemented in consultation with HOHC OHT’s Primary Care Network, led by Dr. Michael Gagnon and Dr. Sonya Caruso.

“The creation of new care service entry points in our community will provide consistent, convenient, and reliable care for every Dufferin and Caledon resident outside of regular weekday business hours, affording greater continuity of care and further reducing preventable Emergency Department presentations,” says Lianne Barbour, Executive Director of DAFHT.

“We are proud of the quality of care we have been able to offer our existing patients and are thrilled with the opportunity to expand access to primary care and DAFHT programs and services to the rest of the Dufferin and Caledon community.”

To be matched with a primary care physician in Dufferin or Caledon, visit: hillssofheadwaterscollaborative.ca/accessprimarycare.

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“Is Fall the Season of Hidden Social Isolation?” by Vanessa Troiano, Manager, Seniors Health and Wellness



The fall season brings a change in weather, scenic colours and colder air that ushers in a refreshed sense of activity.

Children return to school, community programs resume after summer hiatus and families settle back into familiar routines. Yet, hidden in the changing season, the return to routine can bring about a lack of meaningful social interaction and connection for some older adults.

Social isolation is an issue that affects the health, well-being and quality of life of many older adults. According to Statistics Canada, approximately 31 per cent of Caledon’s population is aged 50 or older. This means, as many as 23,700 Caledon residents could be at risk of social isolation.

As our population ages, it becomes more important than ever to find ways of helping seniors get and stay connected to their communities.

At Caledon Community Services (CCS), we know that aging in place and securing physical and mental well-being includes exercise, nutrition, health care and meaningful social

connections as important health factors.

We see the challenges firsthand that arise for seniors as they age, facing the loss of a spouse or friends and navigating health concerns and mobility challenges.

CCS’ Health and Wellness activities provide an opportunity to move, create and socialize. Our many volunteer opportunities, including Seniors Helping Seniors, help keep minds sharp and provide a sense of purpose. And accessible transportation makes it easier to get to destinations where connection happens.

In 2025-2026* 208 seniors enjoyed Seniors Health and Wellness and Seniors Helping Seniors sessions and 26,512 lifesaving rides were provided through Specialized Transportation.

“I like the company,” shares Linda,** a Seniors Helping Seniors participant, “It keeps me from being lonely and gets me off my couch!”

Connections can start small: a ride to a program, a phone call, a conversation or an invitation to join an activity, but often result in big benefits.

Meaningful social connections are just a call or click away at 905-584-2300 or www.ccs4u.org. Join an activity, book a ride or give your time.

*2025-2026 Community Impact Report
**pseudonym used to protect confidentiality

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.
Carolyn Langan, Senior Manager, Health Services, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 225 or clangan@ccs4u.org

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BUSINESS

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Caledon Chamber of Commerce hosts Fall 2026 Business Summit

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On October 21, the Caledon Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Fall Business Summit that invited many members of the community to learn about how to better their business with support from the Chamber.

TPC Osprey hosted the event, which ran from 8.30 a.m. – 2.30 p.m., and was based around the theme of Resilience & Growth: Building Business in a Changing World.

The event started with a welcome breakfast for all guests, who were then led into the banquet hall to hear from the Caledon Chamber of Commerce, staff including Chamber Board Chair Hazel Piacentini, who introduced the event and the work of the Chamber.

Piacentini thanked all those in attendance and spoke about the importance of the Summit to the Chamber’s mission.

“Our mission at the Chamber of Commerce is to strengthen, connect and advocate for our business community, helping businesses by offering unique and affordable opportunities, such as networking, educational, and local events for our members and for their employees,” she said. “Our board takes this mission very, very seriously and as business ourselves we want to ensure that our business community thrives [and] grows. We want to hear from you in terms of what you need us to help with, the issues that you’re dealing with so that we can advocate with the Town as well, and whether it’s a provincial government or the federal government, we will make that happen.”



Mayor Annette Groves delivers opening remarks at last week’s Fall Business Summit, hosted by the Caledon Chamber of Commerce. PHOTO BY KATHRYN FRASER

Piacentini then introduced Mayor Annette Groves, who welcomed everyone to the event.

Other Town of Caledon Councillors in attendance included Ward 3 Councillor Doug Maskell and new acclaimed Regional Councillor Tony Rosa, who Groves acknowledged in her speech.

Throughout her remarks, Groves spoke about the work Council had done to support small- and medium-sized businesses and the importance of collaboration.

“We are very proud of our small- to medium-size businesses and [it] really takes collaboration...in having the Chamber who really focusses on helping these small businesses and, in partnership with us, foster a community and embrace growth,” said Groves.

Mayor Groves also took a moment to recognize the charities and non-profits

that support Caledon residents, with a reminder of the important role seniors in the community play.

“Thank you to all of you who continue to support our local charities here in order to make sure that they can grow, and they can flourish, and they can support [and] provide the programs and services for our vulnerable folks in our community,” she said. “I’m proud of the fact that I have been raising funds as well for a number of years to make sure that you can provide the services that you need for our seniors. Let’s not forget our seniors, because I say this, they are the pillars. They are the foundation. They are the pillars that hold this community up. They are the glue that brings this community together. We cannot forget them because sometimes their voices are not as loud, so sometimes they are forgotten. Please continue to support

our local charities and support our most vulnerable population, our special needs, and those who don’t have a voice of their own, please be their voice.”

Following Groves’ opening remarks, Piacentini introduced the rest of the program. Attendees heard from Steve Masson, who spoke about Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. After hearing from Masson, attendees participated in an interactive Networking Tariff Survival activity which then led into a presentation by Nishant Arora about the Business Development Bank of Canada.

The event concluded with a networking session and closing remarks from Marion Upshall, President of the Caledon Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about the Caledon Chamber of Commerce please visit <https://caledonchamberofcommerce.ca>.

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Diamonds and clever twists bring comedy to the Caledon Town Hall Players stage

BY CONSTANCE SCRAFELD

Jack of Diamonds by Marcia Kash and Douglas E. Hughes is next up at the Caledon Town Hall Players (CTHP), opening November 7 and running over the two weekends to November 14.

The play’s director, Sherry Michielin, told The Citizen that she likes this play “for the way it pokes fun at itself.”

This is Michielin and seven of the nine cast members’ first time performing with CTHP.

She has a long history with community theatre as well as being a drama teacher in Brampton. Michielin has also been involved with Brampton Music Theatre. In all her connections elsewhere, she did comment, “I had heard good things about this theatre in Caledon.”

As the history goes for many people, coming back to community theatre after an extended break to raise a family and build a business is a source of great joy. So it was for Michielin. That return was a number of years ago, and she still loves being part of the arts.

There are many differences, Michielin says, between staging a play in the CTHP theatre building and her usual venues, primarily the scale of space.

The Caledon theatre interior and stage are smaller than the school auditoriums Michielin is accustomed to using. Set as it is in the actual historic Town Hall of Caledon, the theatre has served its theatre company very well for well for more than 60 years.

One of the big benefits is that actors and directors can rehearse in the theatre as the building is dedicated to the plays and entertainment produced there. Usually, the rehearsal of plays and performances elsewhere needs alternative places to rehearse.

“This works really well,” said Michielin, “We have had the whole time to set the blocking and getting used to the set.”

Of the seven people new to this stage, they are coming from far enough away, as do the regulars, where the convenience of rehearsing where they will perform is a definite plus.

The retirement home that is central to the story is not the typical nature of this type of play, which has created fun, unexpected ver-

sions of characters. One is a Southern Belle; another is very sketchy. They are all a far cry from the usual “old guy,” as Michielin described them.

She has been very pleased with the progress the actors have made to be ready. They were all off-book two weeks ago, and their enthusiasm for this very funny show will shine in performance.

Nine characters are part of this story, each with their own endearing personalities, except perhaps for mean nurse Harper. Then, there is the wicked Barney Effward, who scams some of the others, convincing them to invest their savings, only to lose it in one of his Ponzi schemes.

To clarify where, in due course, clarity may become scrambled, it all begins with Jack, a former jeweller who used to sell di-

amonds on a late-night television show and now lives in the luxurious retirement home where he has befriended a number of other residents.

As we join them, they are living happily and well, playing cards, gossiping and indulging in all the joys such a life would offer. However, once Barney’s theft is exposed, panic that they may lose everything is controlled by the residents themselves in a wildly funny flurry, introducing the mysterious Mr. Smith, and each of them brings their own special skills to bear, each quite distinct, said Michielin.

Starring in the show are Mike Delany as Jack, Richard Tawton as Wilf, Michelle Barnes as Rose, Deena Baltman as Flora, Jennifer Haynes as Blanche, Angela Terra as nurse Harper, Kevin Wrycraft as Barney,

Pamela Mior as Mortimer, and Ekta Sharma as the police officer.

Laugh-out-loud funny, the director said Jack of Spades is “an unexpected opportunity to escape the world in a delightful way.”

Her praise for the play is its interesting moments that will captivate the audience. And for the Caledon Town Hall Players, she said, “In places like Caledon, it’s nice for people to come and experience it because it is more than they might expect.”

Running from November 7 to 14, there are two dinner theatre nights planned for this production.

Tickets and information are available at www.caledontownhallplayers.com or by calling 519-927-5460.

Caledon Public Library rolls out new and favourite programs for November

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As we approach the month of November, the Caledon Public Library has a variety of new programs and activities for the community.

Rescue Readers is back once again in partnership with Caledon Animal Shelter.

Each attendee will be able to sign up for a 15-minute time slot where they will be able to practice their reading with a four-legged shelter friend.

The program will run throughout November and will be held at the Caledon Animal Shelter at 12889 Coleraine Drive in Bolton.

A variety of CPL Makers programs for teens age 13-17 and adults will be held throughout November with a chance to make fun items with a variety

of equipment. The CPL Makers events will take place at either the Caledon East Branch or the Margaret Dunn Valleywood Branch. The list of equipment nights includes Sew-cial Club with the Laser Cutter xTool P2S at the Caledon East Branch on November 11 from 6 – 8 p.m.; AI and Making at the Caledon East Branch on November 14 from 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.; Hand Embroidered Felt Ornaments at the Margaret Dun Valleywood Branch on November 14 from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Many more dates are planned for the future.

To register for CPL Makers please visit the Caledon Public Library website.

Are you a fan of Dungeons and Dragons? If yes, then CPL has the event for you.

On November 11 from 6 – 7.30 p.m., the Caledon East Branch will host a one-shot wonder event for those 13-17 to try

out D&D. No experience is required. Check out CPL’s website for details.

The Caledon Village Branch will host a Local Author book Market on November 14 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Come explore local culture through written word, and listen to authors read their stories while you find your ideal book.

This event is open to all ages and you do not need to register in advance.

On November 27 from 4.30 – 6 p.m., the Albion Bolton Branch will host a Movie Night and will show the movie “Monty Python and the Holy Grail.” This is an inclusive program for Adults with Disabilities and those interested can register online at the CPL website.

For more information about the events, visit events.caledonlibrary.com/events.

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JOSHUA DRAKES PHOTO

Theatre Orangeville puts community support in the Spotlight at Hockley Valley Resort

BY JOSHUA DRAKES

Theatre Orangeville is putting a fresh spin on its annual fundraising event this year, bringing supporters together for an afternoon of entertainment, food and fundraising at Hockley Valley Resort.

The fundraiser takes place on November 15, beginning at 12 p.m., with lunch to be served at 1 p.m.

Rebranded as Spotlight, the event will take place as a Sunday luncheon rather than the traditional Saturday evening gathering, offering attendees a new way to support the local theatre while celebrating the community partners, volunteers and donors who help sustain it.

Laura Austin, chair of the Theatre Orangeville Board of Directors, said this year's event will feature performances from leadership at Theatre Orangeville and its Young Company.

"It's a fun experience all around," she said. "We rebranded it to be something memorable, with top-notch entertainment from Stratford. Our own artistic director Jennifer will be performing in a duet. Of course, Young Company is coming in. They performed 'Into the Woods' this year, and they also did 'Baskerville'."

One of the highlights will be a planned flash mob with the Young Company, but more details will be saved for the actual event.

The event's layout has also been redesigned with a new, centre-focused floor plan with a dance floor in the middle of the tables to encourage socializing and bring attendees closer together, with the central dance floor serving as the focal point.

"We reached out to the Headwaters Foundation because they had a huge success with their event, and they were very generous to share what they had," Austin said. "They offered to come and give us some ideas on how they were so successful, and they used this floor plan. We like it because it's more connected, engaging, inclusive — that's why people come out to our events."

The Spotlight theme will focus on Broadway and the performing arts, with red, gold and black decorations complementing the occasion. Guests can also expect a meal prepared by Hockley Valley

Resort, a longstanding community partner.

Fundraising opportunities will include silent auction items, a raffle featuring three prize baskets, a heads-or-tails game and a golden ticket offering the winner their choice of a live auction item. Prizes include WestJet tickets and a necklace valued at \$3,300 from Gallery Gemma. Organizers are also introducing 50 mystery bags, each priced at \$50 and expected to contain items worth up to \$100.

The event also aims to recognize the local businesses and individuals who have supported Theatre Orangeville over the years, including BookLore, Bluebird Cafe, Greystones and Adamo Estate Winery, who will be providing drinks for the evening.

The changes come as Theatre Orangeville works toward long-term financial sustainability following a challenging period. Austin said community support has been particularly important, with staff, volunteers and local organizations continuing to stand behind the theatre.

Spotlight also appears to be attracting a new audience, with approximately 40 per cent of ticket purchasers attending for the first time. Organizers hope the Sunday afternoon format will appeal to people who prefer not to travel or attend events late in the evening.

For Austin, the fundraiser represents more than an opportunity to raise money. Theatre Orangeville's productions centre on Canadian stories, playwrights and performers, while its local staff and volunteers help maintain a strong connection between the stage and the community.

"Our five main stage productions are Canadian stories," she said. "They're written by Canadian playwrights. They're acted by Canadian actors. The staff is all local. They're all Orangeville residents or volunteers who have supported our theatre for years and years. We're all Canadian, and we are so blessed to be able to witness these authentic stories on our stage."

Through Spotlight, the theatre hopes to celebrate those connections while raising support for the future of local arts and culture.

For more information and tickets, go to theatreorangeville.ca/show/spotlight.

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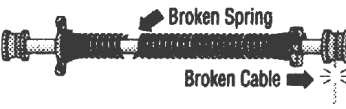
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Wildlife centre hosting “Women for Wildlife” weekend

BY MARK PAVILONS

The National Wildlife Centre in Caledon East is hosting a special build weekend, entitled “Women for Wildlife.”

The volunteer build event will take place Oct. 30 through Nov. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

Volunteers will roll up their sleeves and help build a fox enclosure at the centre.

To sign up, email director@national-wildlifecentre.ca

Their mission is to bring Canada’s wild-

life community together.

The Centre, a national hub in-the-making, is providing scientists, rehabilitators, students, and volunteers the best wildlife assessment, diagnostics, treatment, and care for animals using national standards of medical excellence. It will educate the public on how best to co-habit with urban wildlife, and will offer training on emergency prevention and preparedness for wildlife responders.

Since 2014, The NWC has cared for more than 8,000 native wild animals, and

more than 200 species, including threatened and endangered ones.

They have recently expanded and now provide medical care to sick and injured wildlife through a partnership with Hope for Wildlife (HFW) in Seaforth, NS.

They organize their work around four crucial areas, currently by connecting the public to the appropriate wildlife responder or rehabilitator with future plans to bring wildlife experts, enthusiasts and the public together to support Canadian wildlife.



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