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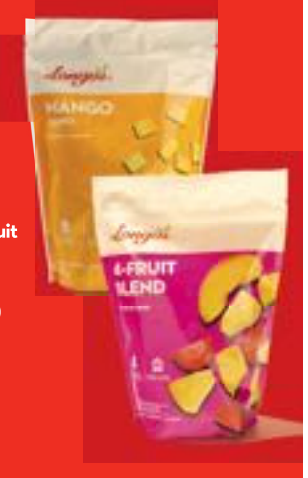
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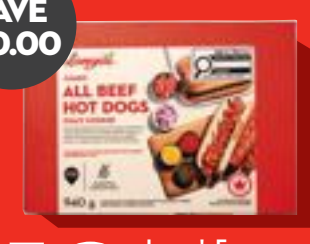
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EGG NOG ADVENTURE – The annual C3 Canadian Cross Training Club Nuvo Iron Egg Nog Jog took place on Sunday and was a record-breaking community event in many ways – and saw the participation of dozens, including Charlotte Meek, pictured here with family and friends. For more on this year's event, please see Page B5. **PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY**

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Credit Valley Conservation's offer to purchase "Swan Lake" denied

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) made an offer to purchase 593 Charleston Sideroad, otherwise known as 0 Shaws Creek Road and "Swan Lake" from Brookvalley Project Management Inc., owned by Nick Cortellucci.

That offer, which was made in October, was not successful.

The property has been the subject of numerous gatherings and petitions, with residents advocating for months.

The issue of "Swan Lake" began in May of 2025 with a motion tabled at a Planning and Development Committee Meeting.

The motion would authorize a grading agreement allowing fill to be brought into the property of 0 Shaw's Creek Road, "Swan Lake," owned by Brookvalley Project Management Inc.

In the motion, it was shared that the owner of the property had approached the Town about "rehabilitating an old aggregate pit located on the property with fill created from their development sites across Caledon and the Greater Toronto Area."

The property was zoned Extractive Industrial, which was not compatible with the current Fill by-law at the time.

There is currently a proposed Site Alteration By-law being developed that will repeal and replace the Town's Current Fill By-law once passed.

The comment period for the proposed Site Alteration By-law is now closed, and Staff are reading through comments.

Continued on Page A14

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LET THERE BE LIGHT - Mayor and Council joined Santa and Mrs. Claus last week at Town Hall for Caledon's official Tree Lighting ceremony. For more on the evening, please see Page A3. **PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY**

CAFFI Community Support Network makes merry

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

This past weekend, Caledon Area Families for Inclusion (CAFFI) Community Support Network held their third annual Christmas Holiday Social.

The Community Support Network focuses on creating social connections for families while advocating for children and adults with differing abilities in Caledon, with a particular focus on the transition to adulthood.

Continued on Page A8

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U16BB Caledon Hawks Hockey Team with CCS' Kim D'Eri at this year's weigh-in. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U16BB Caledon Hawks score big for local families with 1,645-lb food donation

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Christmas season might just be warming up in Caledon, but the U16BB Hawks jumped into giving mode months ago.

When this year's U16BB Caledon Hawks Hockey first joined together in April, they immediately began collecting food for their yearly donation to Caledon Community Service's food bank, The Exchange.

Every year for the past three years, they've been raising their goal, and this year was no different – with their sights set on collecting 1,500 lbs of non-perishable food donations.

During their final weigh-in at The Exchange just last week, the team raised a total of 1,645 lbs.

Hawks player Luca Barbuzzi explained they went around Caledon neighborhoods as a team, going door to door asking for donations.

He shared that it's not only fun working together as a team, but also helping the community.

Sponsor Coordinator for the U16BB Hawks Silvana Robinson, said this has been months of legwork and effort from the team.

Whether it was handing out donation bags in the community ahead of time or sorting them at the final weigh-in, the team truly gave it their all this year.

Players Nathan Svirga and Jordan Hurst said it felt good to help others in the community and be able to give back.

Robinson shared that a large part of this fundraiser is to raise awareness not only within the team but also in the community about food insecurity.

"Instilling life-long awareness of food insecurities, and a good feeling of giving back is something I hope these aspiring young adults will always remember," says Robinson.

She said she hopes the team takes moments like these with them throughout the rest of their lives.

This wasn't the only fundraising effort from the U16BB Caledon Hawks this year; just a few short months ago, they raised over $1,000 for this year's Bolton Kin Terry Fox run, more than double their target.

As this team consistently goes above and beyond their goals, they're sure to achieve even more in next year's fundraisers.

Make tails wag and wishes come true with the Ontario SPCA's Home for the Holidays adoption campaign

The Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre is on a mission to make dreams come true this holiday season for animals and their new families with its Home for the Holidays adoption campaign, running until Dec. 24.

Last year, the Orangeville & District Animal Centre found loving homes for 655 animals. To date in 2025, it has already had more than 670 animals come into its care. The animal centre's goal is to find loving homes for 66 animals during the Home for the Holidays campaign. Animals adopted from the Ontario SPCA are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated, and they go home with food from Royal Canin to help ensure a smooth transition into their new life.

With more people home during the holidays, now is an ideal time to welcome an animal into your family. Whether it's an affectionate cat who's been patiently watching others go home or a gentle senior dog still full of love to give, each adoption helps change a life – both for the animal and the family who opens their heart.

"Every animal deserves to experience the joy of home," says Julie Woods, manager of Ontario SPCA Orangeville & District Animal Centre. "We have some very special animals who have been patiently waiting for a loving family to call their own and we're hoping this holiday season will be their time to finally make their wishes come true."

Those unable to adopt can still make a difference this holiday season. Donations help provide shelter and medical care for animals waiting for their forever homes. Supporters can also shop Paws & Give™ , the Ontario SPCA's online giving store filled with gifts that give back – from gifts for that special someone on your list, to toys for shelter animals. Every purchase helps give animals in need a second chance.

Visit ontariospca.ca/adopt to meet animals looking for homes this holiday season or visit ontariospca.ca/orangeville to donate or shop Paws & Give™ . Together, we can make this a season of love, hope, and happy new beginnings for animals across Ontario.





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Santa and Mrs. Claus preside over the ceremony. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Town of Caledon "Lights Up" with holiday spirit at Tree Lighting

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On December 2nd, Caledon community members eagerly gathered outside Town Hall to watch the beginning of the Christmas season unfold, as the tree was lit for the Holiday season.

Those awaiting the lighting were not alone, as Santa and Mrs. Claus held a special story time for the audience before the tree lighting ceremony itself.

Other attendees could be found meandering through the many attractions outside Caledon Town Hall that night.

Attendees could enjoy a giant snow globe or the warming station inside, which featured crafts for kids.

On site were Caledon OPP and Caledon Fire and Emergency Services, where residents were spotted having their photo taken with Sparky the Fire Dog.

For those confident about their place on the nice list this year, a mailing station was available at Town Hall to send your letters to the North Pole.

"The days are much shorter, less light to do chores—one last chance to gather before moving indoors. December is here, and so is the snow. It's just 23 days until Christmas, you know," Caledon's Town Crier rang out as the Caledon community gathered closer, awaiting the tree lighting.

"This is such a special time of year," added Mayor Annette Groves, as she invited the community to celebrate together this season.

When she asked the children clustered at the front, "What's special about Christmas?"

The answer appeared to be a resounding "Presents!"

The Town Crier led Council and the community in round of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" as the tree was illuminated, and kids of all ages hurriedly lined up for a chance to have their photo taken with Santa.

As the night continued, whether it was parents enjoying the complimentary refreshments or children telling Santa what they want for Christmas, the Caledon Tree Lighting Celebration truly lit up this year's Holiday season.

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Diamond in the Hills Fashion Show Raises Over $320,000

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Bethell Hospice would like to extend their deepest appreciation to the Diamond in the Hills Committee of Kim Campbell, Mollie Cavan, Becky Dobson, Maureen Gilfoy, Debbie Glover, Janine Livingston, Rebekah Rabe and Gayle Wilding.

This team of outstanding fundraisers work tirelessly to ensure the success of the fashion show. They are truly a hidden gem in our community!

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Special thank you to the fashion models and event day helpers, Altitude Salon & Apothecary for hair and make-up, and the Caledon Firefighters for their tremendous support.

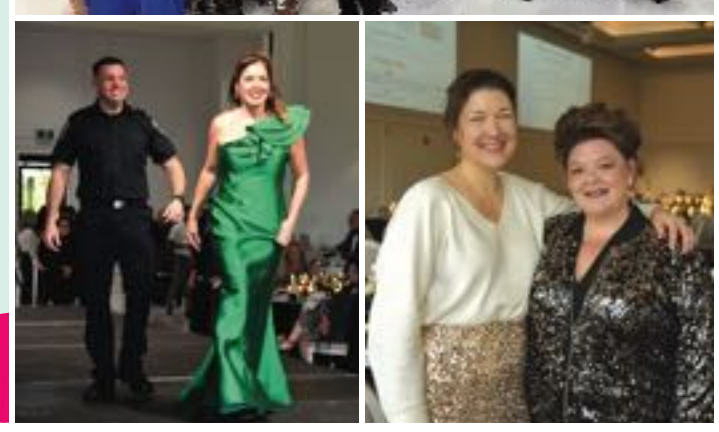
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IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon OPP have laid numerous alcohol-related charges upon two individuals.

"On November 20, 2025, at approximately 11:15 p.m., officers responded to a report of a single vehicle collision on Creditview Road, near King Street, in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "Shortly after, officers arrived on scene and subsequently formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol."

Following the investigation, Calvin D'Silva, 34, of Brampton, was charged with:

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

The charge has not been proven.

"On November 23, 2025, at approximately 2:00 a.m., Caledon OPP officers responded to a traffic complaint regarding a vehicle struggling to maintain their lane. Shortly after, officers located the vehicle on Bramalea Road, near King Street, in the Town of Caledon. Officers conducted a traffic stop upon the vehicle and formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol."

As a result of the investigation, Pardeep Chahal, 39, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired – alcohol;
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus);
- Having care or control of a motor vehicle with liquor readily available.

The charges have not been proven.

Both accused parties are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on December 11, 2025, to answer to the charges. Additionally, the driver's vehicles were impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver's licences suspended for a period of 90 days.

"The OPP remains committed to keeping our communities safe through enforcement and public education. Drivers who are impaired by drugs or alcohol continue to pose a significant threat on Ontario roads. Whether a driver is impaired by alcohol or drugs, impaired is impaired, and impaired driving is dangerous regardless of the source of impairment. If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired, it is important to call 9-1-1 to report it."

For more information about the penalties of driving impaired, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/impaired-driving.

PEEL RESIDENT CHARGED IN SEXUAL EXPLOITATION CASE

Police have arrested and charged a Mississauga resident following a child sexual exploitation investigation.

"On Sunday, November 23, 2025, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Child Sexual Exploitation Unit (CSEU) executed a search warrant at a residence in Mississauga, with assistance from the OPP Mississauga Detachment, members of the OPP Digital Forensics Unit and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)," say Police. "Several electronic devices were seized."

As a result of the investigation, Vineeth Vimal, 40, Mississauga, was arrested and charged with the following Criminal Code offences:

- Luring a person under 16 years of age, section 172.1(1)(b) - two counts;
- Making sexually explicit material available to a person under 16 years of age, section 171.1 - two counts.

The charges have not been proven.

The accused was released from custody following a bail hearing and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on Tuesday, December 23, 2025.

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 to assist them by visiting cybertip.ca or protectchildren.ca.

If you have information regarding online child exploitation and wish to provide information anonymously, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca. Information can also be reported through cybertip.ca.

"Child sexual exploitation remains a serious concern in Ontario," said Detective Staff Sergeant Chris Barkey of the OPP's Child Sexual Exploitation Unit. "Offenders are increasingly using technology to target children. Addressing this threat demands a coordinated response, with police, parents and community partners working together to create safer environments for children. Parents, you play a vital role in protecting your children from online victimization. Stay informed, monitor online activity, and talk openly with your children about internet safety."

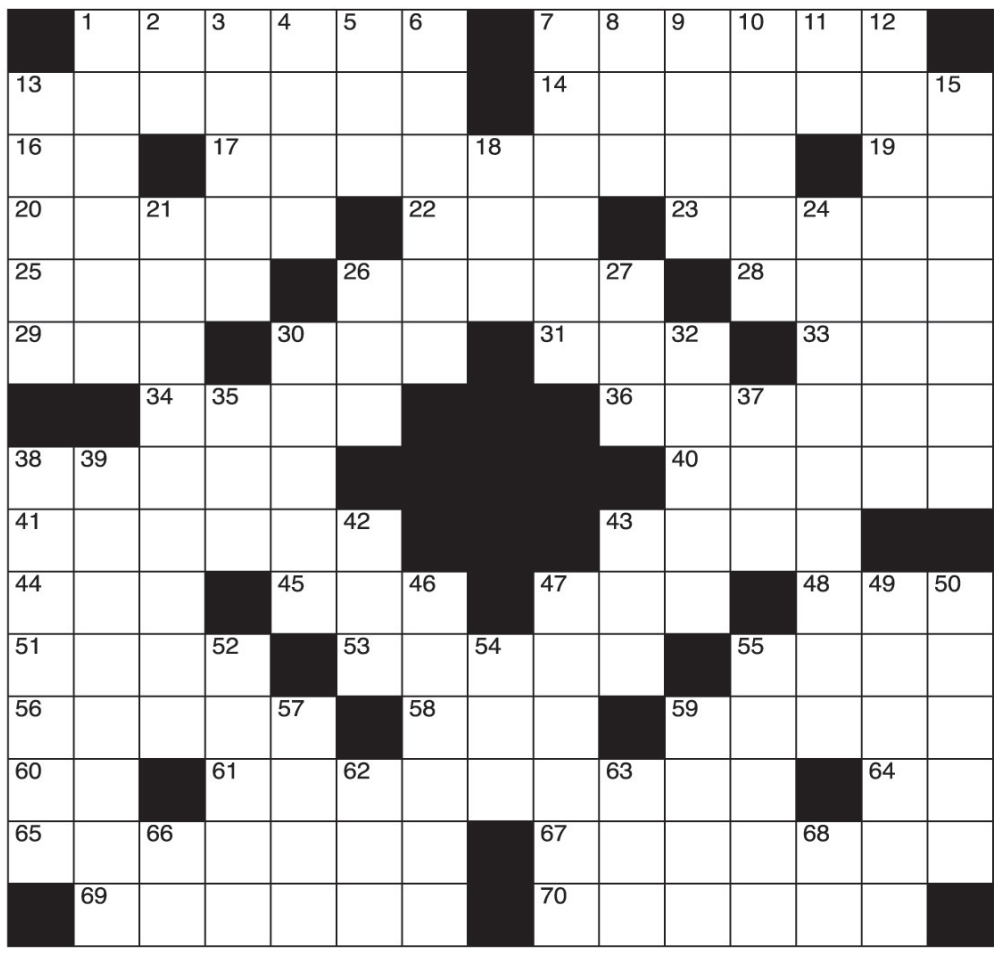


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16. They precede C
17. A way to compare
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. The eighth month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex Machina
26. Makes happy
28. Type of berry
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. Influential German psychologist
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. You can get stuck in one
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Fiber optics network
48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Belonging to the bottom layer
55. Sound
56. MLB legend Hank
58. Very attractive person
59. Late beloved sportscaster Craig
60. South Dakota
61. Mocking
64. Symbol for gold
65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary patient assessment

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Necklace material
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your future
6. Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan
7. Dipped down
8. Head injury (abbr.)
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Opposite of yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Spiritual leader of Islam
15. Businesslike
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. An animal with its own day
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start over
32. Field flowers
35. Fourteen
37. A visual way to interact with a computer
38. Up-to-date
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. Supporter of the Pope
49. Anxiety
50. Body fluid
52. One who's faking it
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. City in central Japan
59. Silk garment
62. A form of dance
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Justice Dept. head honcho

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





Jesse Di Giovanni, left, and Jack Rooney. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Caledon firefighters receive 2024 Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Two local Caledon firefighters, Jessie Di Giovanni and Jack Rooney, have been honoured with a 2024 Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery for a heroic rescue that took place last year.

The Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery was created in 1976 and honours firefighters who have gone above and beyond to protect and serve their communities, and honours acts of outstanding courage.

On August 17, 2024, Firefighters Di Giovanni and Rooney were driving on Highway 410 near Mississauga when they spotted a vehicle overturned in a flooded trench, with bystanders nearby calling for help, said the office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Edith Dumont.

Di Giovanni and Rooney then entered the murky water and inspected the submerged car, where Rooney was able to locate the unconscious driver.

Unfortunately, the victim was stuck.

Di Giovanni dove back into the water and was able to unbuckle the seatbelt and adjust the seat.

With help from an arriving OPP officer, they shifted the vehicle enough for Di Giovanni to free the driver.

"Di Giovanni and Rooney acted swiftly and selflessly in a life-threatening situation," reads the Ontario Government citation.

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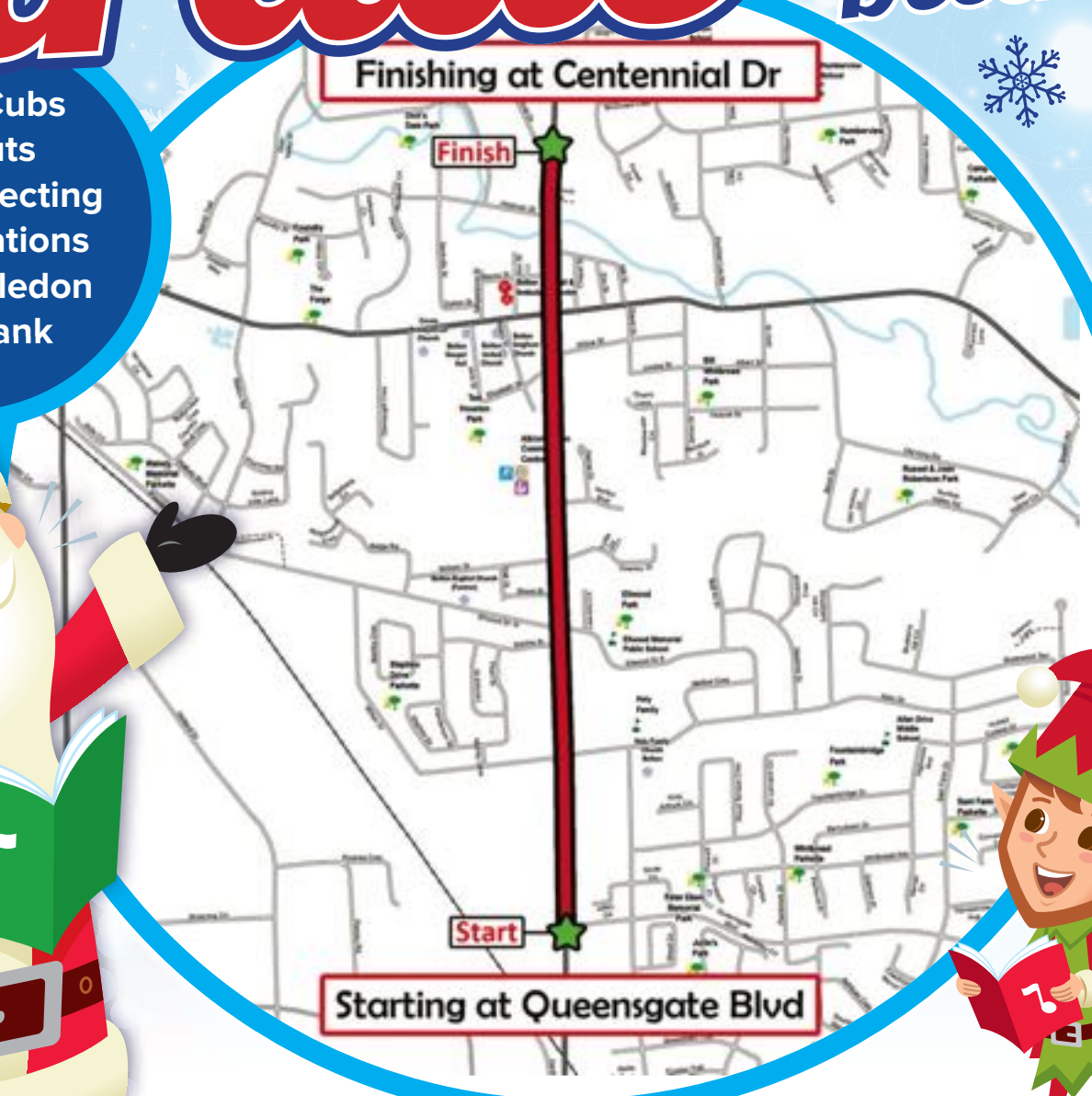
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KIN CANADA

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Santa Claus Parade
This Saturday December 6th, at 11am!

Bolton Cubs & Scouts will be collecting food donations for the Caledon Food Bank







www.boltonkin.com
Check out our social media for all the latest Santa updates!

HOLIDAY TREE DIRECTORY













UDDER Tournament organizers present a cheque to Bethell Hospice Foundation Board Members.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

UDDER Tournament raises $57,350.57 for Bethell Hospice

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

For many years, the UDDER Tournament has been a supporter of Bethell Hospice, and this year was no different, with their recent donation of $57,350.57 from this year's event.

The UDDER Tournament is an annual, charitable women's hockey tournament here in Caledon.

This year's tourney marks the 11th anniversary of its inception.

The tournament was created to recognize a community member and a Caledon Women's Hockey League founding member, Donna DeBoer, who lost her battle with brain cancer in 2011.

The weekend-long tournament featured 30 teams, raffles, a silent auction, and their annual scholarship, which is awarded to one local female athlete.

All proceeds from this year's tournament went directly to Bethell Hospice, with which the tournament has been involved since 2014.

Over time, they have donated a total of $154,000, with this year's donation bringing that total to more than $200,000.

Lyn Malcher, Communications for the Tournament, notes that this is an increase from last year's donation amount.

"It's awesome, Bethell is a great place that we love to support," says Malcher.

At a cheque presentation held on November 23, Bethell Hospice Foundation Board members thanked the tournament organizers for their continued support of the hospice.

"We are so appreciative of you, and grateful that you have chosen Bethell as the recipients of this amazing tournament," shared Bonnie Klaassen, Co-Chair of the Bethell Hospice Foundation Board.

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TOWN OF CALEDON | NEWS | Subscribe to the Town's email newsletter at: caledon.ca/enews

Municipal, Agricultural and Community Grants Now Available



Is your not-for-profit community organization planning an event or working on a new project that will enrich the lives of Caledon residents?

Does it take place between January and June, 2026? If so, apply today for the fall intake of our Municipal, Agricultural and Community Grants!

Applications close on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Visit **caledon.ca/grants** for full details and to apply!

Mayor Annette Groves & Council invite you to the

22ND ANNUAL

Winter Fest Celebration

Sunday, January 4, 2026
1 - 4 p.m.
Mayfield Recreation Complex

Free skating, swimming, activities, refreshments and much more!

Afternoon of fun for all ages!

caledon.ca/Winterfest

TOWN OF CALEDON

Join Caledon's Bird Team



We are working to protect local birds and their habitats – and you can help. Residents are invited to apply to join our Bird Team and support community bird-friendly initiatives.

Learn more and apply by December 12 at **caledon.ca/birdfriendly.**

Food and Friends: 55+ Social Breakfast Program

Join us for a free breakfast and meet fellow seniors in Caledon! Breakfast will be served at the Town Hall Café (6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East) on select Friday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Be sure to check the schedule before arriving!

Registration is required.

Visit **caledon.ca/adult55** for schedule details and more information.

TOWN OF CALEDON

6311 Old Church Road
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6
caledon.ca
311 | 905.584.2272 | 1.888.225.3366 | F. 905.584.4325

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CAFFI Community Support Network holds 3rd Annual Holiday Social

Continued from FRONT

The Network welcomed both families, and the holiday season, with games, crafts, movies, music, and a special visit from both Mr. and Mrs. Claus, who added to the lineup of entertainment for the families.

Mike Brunetto, with the Community Support Network, shared that participation continues to grow, welcoming new families and strengthening existing relationships.

"Our network's annual Christmas event continues to remind us that we are slowly but surely reaching the hearts of families that have similar challenges, and coming together has now become a traditional celebration," says Brunetto.

Their leadership team plans and advocates "tirelessly", he says, and extends a heartfelt thank you to the extended families and volunteers who help make these events successful and memorable.

"On the advocacy side, we have come a long way in advancing our partnerships with local businesses, community services, and partners in education. Our gratitude is extended to our Council members for their ongoing support and recognition".

The Community Support Network, in partnerships, shares a vision that includes a daytime recreational and life skills program designed for young adults 18+ who are preparing to transition out of the school system and into the community.

Brunetto shares that these efforts aim to prioritize those with complex and exceptional support needs, "a gap in the community for quite some time."

"There are evolving connections that we are developing with the Town Parks and Recreation, to pilot some of these ideas, that actually prioritize and augment services to those who have multiple exceptionalities. By doing so, we strengthen our subject matter expertise, creating community living that strives to leave no one behind."

Another aspect of the celebration this weekend, Brunetto shared, was to raise awareness of the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3rd.

This observance aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society.

"We are working to model this as a community in a cohesive manner," says Brunetto. "It's also an honorable deed for everyone, not for some. We are very fortunate, given there is already so much goodness that so many people and organizations do in our community to build on."

He shared that from the caregiver and parent perspective, they continue to "open the door to those invested in this journey, to join the conversation, where our families can devote their time and commitment in supporting one another."

To learn more on how to join the conversation and upcoming events, visit the website at www.cafficonnect .ca





(Above) Santa and Mrs Claus hand out presents. (Below) Time to cut the cake! CAFFI Network volunteers, family members, and Councillor Mario Russo gather around. **PHOTOS BY RILEY MURPHY**

Single Detached in Grand Valley
Starting in the High $600s



Grand Opening of Our New Models Saturday & Sunday from 1 to 4 PM
BRAND NEW PLANS AND PRICING, featuring a range of bungalow, bungaloft and two-storey detached designs on 38' & 42' lots.

Thomasfield.com

MAYBERRY HILL
Grand Valley

Holiday magic returns with Caledon Concert Band's annual Christmas Concert

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Caledon Concert Band presents this year's holiday concert, "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

The Caledon Concert Band, a not-for-profit organization, was formed more than 50 years ago, when an advertisement was placed in the Caledon Citizen calling together area musicians for a rehearsal at Ellwood Public School.

What started as just a few violin players, a guitar, a handful of brass players, and a bass drum grew into the beloved band it is today.

Since its inception, they have been performing a holiday concert, and this year is no different.

Liz Sagermann, a volunteer with the band, says it is composed of people of all ages.

"We have people who are in their early 80s, right down to a couple of students who are in Grade Nine, budding musicians who are really doing well – it's a lovely mix," says Sagermann. "They really take great joy in putting on four concerts a year."

The band is led by conductor Rob Kinnear, who recently celebrated 40 years as Conductor of the Caledon Concert Band.

"The band is designed to adapt with the times. Our membership naturally changes from year to year as new players join, others move on," adds Sagermann. "The leadership regularly reviews rehearsal methods, performance, concert planning, etc., just to be sure that we remain responsive to the needs and interests of the community. Musically, our programming is intentionally diverse and ever growing."

Sagermann says the concert's music is geared to the public's listening pleasure, and that it is the "perfect" local event to get those in the Christmas spirit without having to drive too far out of the way.

"Who wants to drive to Toronto to a major concert, when you can do something and enjoy it here locally?"

The event, held at Caledon Hills Fellowship Baptist Church, will be on December 14 at 2 p.m., and will run for just over two hours.

The concert itself will be holiday-themed and feature various arrangers such as the Canadian Brass.

The concert will also feature songs from various family favourites such as The Nutcracker, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and even a Hockey Night in Canada theme, as the Caledon Concert Band finds something for everyone this year.

In light of the giving season, the concert will be "pay what you can."

"I would love to see that church filled," says Sagermann.

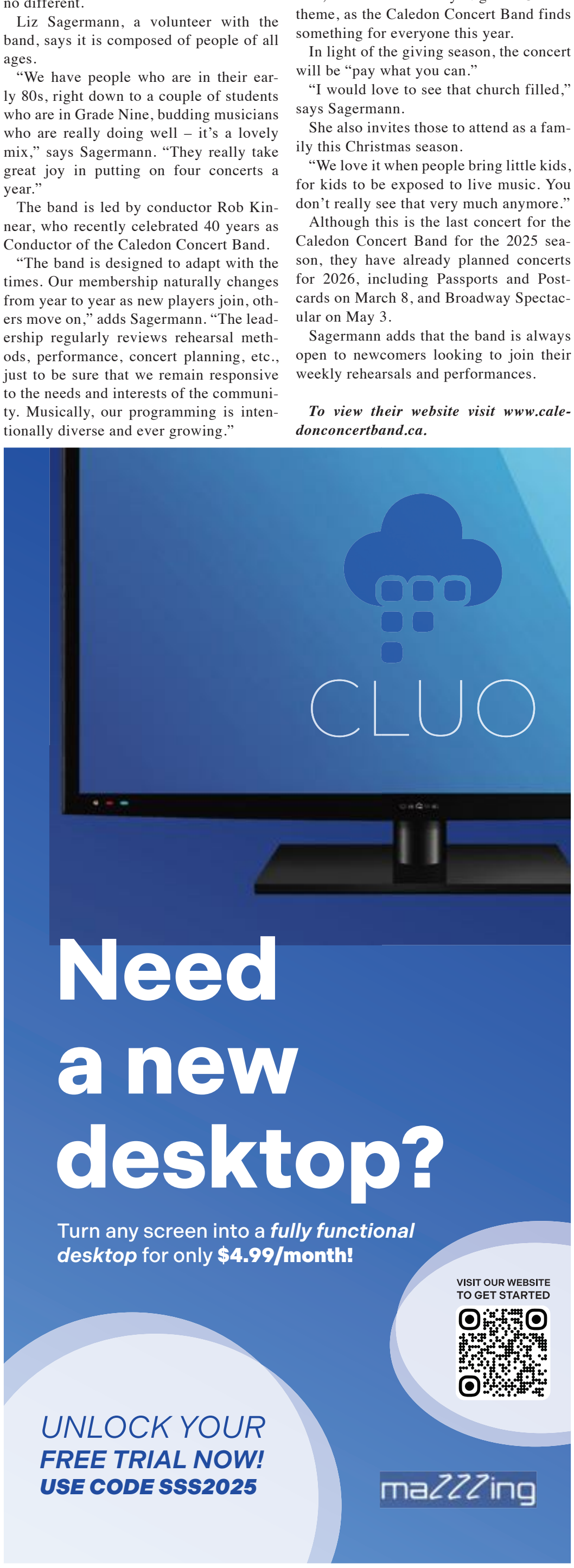
She also invites those to attend as a family this Christmas season.

"We love it when people bring little kids, for kids to be exposed to live music. You don't really see that very much anymore."

Although this is the last concert for the Caledon Concert Band for the 2025 season, they have already planned concerts for 2026, including Passports and Postcards on March 8, and Broadway Spectacular on May 3.

Sagermann adds that the band is always open to newcomers looking to join their weekly rehearsals and performances.

To view their website visit www.caledonconcertband.ca.





REMEMBER TO SHOP LOCAL!

BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Giving Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday...

Do you remember when you were first bitten by the spirit of giving?

Some of us are fortunate to have had childhoods where compiling our gift lists around the holiday season was almost as fun as receiving gifts. The possibilities seemed endless!

I was lucky enough to have a mother who was – and is – a gift-giving enthusiast, while my father was, during my childhood at least, a bit of a tougher sell.

At that age, taking me out to get gifts for the parentals was, of course, the province of the parent who was not on the receiving end of the gift in question and, as they held the purse strings, my selections were sometimes limited by a number of variables outside of my control, including whether or not they happened to be getting along at the time!

I was probably about eight years old when I realized that gift-giving could truly be as creative as compiling a wish list. One of my elder cousins at the time had their first paycheque burning a hole in their pocket and they decided they would be giving their own gifts to the family.

It's still a mystery to me why they thought Don Cherry's latest – and apparently greatest – installment in his Rock'em Sock'em Hockey VHS series, was the right gift for me, but I was glad they allowed me to exchange it for something that was a bit more my speed: The Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Cookbook.

In my defence, it was 1994 and "Forrest Gump" was all the rage at the time, and it has a pretty rock'em, sock'em recipe for shrimp linguine I still revisit from time to time – and my cousin learned the value of a gift receipt. A win-win all around!

A few years later I had saved a few bucks, withdrew the $50 in my bank account that had been accumulating cents of interest since pure, unadulterated nepotism landed me my first gig in my all-too-brief career as a child model for drinking water purification systems, and set out for a GTA mall with a list of who I had to buy for.

As luck would have it, the mall I landed on had a groovy little store that had about two-dozen stores within, featuring work from scores of artisans, producers, and more. Something for everyone, all under one roof!

As a first-time giver, I hit the jackpot.

For my mom, always an enthusiast for antique pine furniture, I found a beautiful handmade wooden bowl that is still in use; my dad and grandfather, men with nautical inclinations, were on the receiving end of etched glass plaques featuring a variety of watercraft; my brother, who had a cat at the time, a quirky desk organizer in the shape of a feline. The others? I can't remember, but I'm sure what they received was as thoughtfully chosen as possible without having to go to a second store!

Needless to say, the experience didn't turn me into a dyed-in-the-fur mall rat, but the pure joy in the act of giving has remained a constant – sometimes in spite of another set of variables thrown our way.

I'm not sure about the rest of you, but I've found the very concept of buying a bit more intense this holiday season – and, alas, we're just getting started.

Perhaps it's because so many of us are feeling more of a pinch this year as the world continues to face economic challenges, but the commodification of the holiday season has felt a bit more in-your-face this time around, particularly in the lead-up to and aftermath of Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

Now, I'm all for getting a deal, but, to my mind, we were doing just fine when our deal-finding dates were more-or-less firmly set for the Monday after our Canadian Thanksgiving and on Boxing Day.

With every passing year, however, the peculiar American import of Black Friday becomes more of a presence in our lives. Despite one Black Friday years ago when I went to a local grocery store to get a sandwich for lunch and left not with a sandwich but a flatscreen TV – hey, it was a really good deal! – I've typically been immune to the Black Friday brouhaha. I have to admit though I almost got reeled in this time around.

Bombarded from all directions, I found myself adding gifts for loved ones into my cart, things that weren't necessarily asked for, but things I thought they might like. While it is the thought that does indeed count, was it the actual thought that they might enjoy it or a false sense of urgency that if they might like it, time was of the essence to get it at what was promised to be the best price in years?

In the midst of all this, we're looking into some sort of vacation in the New Year and when I found myself feeling a bit of anxiety that if we didn't get plane tickets then and there – to a yet-to-be-determined location – because such "deals" likely wouldn't be in the offing again, I finally felt it was best for all to step away from the device, the online shopping cards, the manufactured sense of urgency, and wait until it all passed in order to make good purchases with a clear head.

And despite the fact I am writing this on the morning of Giving Tuesday, a day designated as a "global generosity movement" that is a boon for so many non-profits around the world, including innumerable organizations here at home that have immediate and pressing needs at the moment, Eugene Levy just popped up on my screen trying to get me to shell out on a new mattress because these Black Friday deals won't last forever.

Let Giving Tuesday have its moment in the spotlight!

I know that Black Friday, even if it is an American import, is a prime opportunity for our homegrown businesses, which need to take advantage of every opportunity they can get in this economic climate, and groundwork for Giving Tuesday was probably laid, at least in part, as a way to atone for some of the more egregious acts of seasonal consumerism, the focus between the two is nowhere near in balance.

By the time you read this on Thursday, I can only hope that Giving Tuesday is not already fading into memory, a casualty of Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals extending clear to Boxing Day.

The needs that have been highlighted in the lead-up to Tuesday, December 2, do not magically vanish on Wednesday, December 3, despite the generosity of our community members.

It's not too late today – Thirty-Bucks-in-the-Hole Thursday? – to look up a group or organization that speaks to you, see what their needs are, and really get the most bang for the aforementioned buck by keeping it in the community.

These contributions are always appreciated, no matter what date happens to be on the calendar.

"Donation December" doesn't have quite the same ring to it as "Giving Tuesday" but it's the real spirit of the season that counts.



Will high salaries kill sports, entertainment?

by Mark Pavilons



It's great work if you can get it!

Being a star athlete or entertainer is definitely key-to-the-city rich.

Salaries of the pros keep skyrocketing, reaching never-before-seen levels. And consumers are feeling the pinch.

New York Mets' right fielder Juan Soto is baseball's highest-paid player, slated to collect an estimated $126.9 million in 2025. Los Angeles Dodgers' two-way phenom Shohei Ohtani will join him in the nine-figure club with an estimated $102 million.

While there's no debating their talent, the golden era of sports seemed more "normal" when personalities and talent – not pay cheques – loomed large.

And then, the 1960s sports era was the first time American sports started seeing multiple contracts in the six-figure range. Names like Sandy Koufax, Mickey Mantle, and Wilt Chamberlain highlight this list of the highest-paid athletes of the 1960s.

Hank Aaron pulled in roughly $80,000 in the 1960s.

Hockey wages have risen sharply, too, way beyond the money paid to hockey's greats like Gretzky, Messier and the like.

Russian-born Kirill Kaprizov's eight-year, $136-million deal is set to become the biggest in NHL history.

When Bobby Orr retired in the 1978-79 season, he was paid $500,000, but for most of his career, he earned $200,000 or less per season. Gordie Howe hit the $100,000 mark in 1969-70.

The entry level players in the NHL today – many just teenagers – earn roughly $700,000, with most racking up well over $1-million.

Toronto boasts some of the greatest fans in any league, any sport. And we've got a few trophies to prove that we can compete with anyone in the world.

But of course, fandom comes with a price, too.

At a recent Maple Leafs game, my brother-in-law forked out $49.50 for two cans of tall boys!

I didn't venture near any of the concessions but I imagine you can spend a small fortune in snacks at any game.

I'm not convinced the prices can't be subsidized in some way to give patrons a break.

Sports aside, top singers and A-Listers are raking in the dough, too.

Through acting and business ventures, the top earning entertainers include Tom Cruise ($100 million), Dwayne Johnson ($88 million) and Ryan Reynolds ($71.5 million).

Top box office stars, like those mentioned, can earn $20 million per film, along with some profit or product sharing.

By comparison, John Wayne's biggest pay cheques were from his late-1960s movies at $1 million.

Clint Eastwood was paid only $15,000 for his first "Man with No Name" movie and he earned roughly $500,000 per film in the 1960s.

The salaries per episode for our favorite TV show stars can hit seven figures – a trend set by Seinfeld, Friends and The Big Bang Theory cast members.

Michael Jackson, one of the top stars of all time, earned roughly $37 million in 1985.

Taylor Swift, the indisputable diva of all time, is estimated to be worth just over $1-billion.

Today, the top talk show hosts, which neither act, sing, nor play sports, do quite well. Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Kimmel and Jimmy Fallon earn roughly $15 million annually.

So, my friends, the ceiling seems to be quite high if you're a popular athlete or entertainer. In sports, the idea is to make as much as you can early on, because careers won't last into your 40s given the physical demands.

But actors can work well into their 80s and 90s.

Some will say the salaries 40 years ago are comparable to today's wages, but I don't think that's true. "Adjusted" figures don't paint an accurate picture of the top-billing talents.

Many stars were also expendable over the course of Hollywood's tainted history.

Athletes keep making record amounts, especially in baseball, as witnessed by some post-World Series contracts.

While all of these professionals may very well deserve these massive salaries, one has to ask just where will it end?

Sports organizations have salary "caps," but that magic line keeps moving.

For others, there is no real limit. And the more you have, the more you continue to make, with wise investments, business dealings, etc.

Keanu Reeves once said that he has enough money for several centuries. He has given away millions and has taken pay cuts just to work with notable actors. But he's the exception. Must be his Canadian upbringing.

We consumers – movie watches, video streamers, concert-goers and sports fans – subsidize these massive salaries.

One day, though, I think we'll begin to see the breaking point in terms of TV sit-coms and sports dynasties. The bubble will burst – production companies and team owners will have to put the brakes on skyrocketing pay cheques.

The movie-going public is already opting for more stay-at-home streaming options. Alas, theatres, especially the smaller ones, will one day become a thing of the past.

And that's sad. Who doesn't have fond memories of watching a flick in a crowded, dark, dingy theatre? I saw Jaws with my sister and ET with my mom when I was a kid and will never forget those experiences.

And while home-made popcorn can be pretty good, there's nothing like movie popcorn, especially those massive tubs!

Of course, many of us still have family movie nights in the comfort of our living rooms.

While streaming services offer a multitude of choices, you pay a premium for this service, too, on top of regular cable, internet, etc. And now, more services are tossing in commercials and you have to pay to go "commercial free." Talk about squeezing every penny out of consumers.

We average folks are willing to part with our hard-earned, after-tax dollars for some R&R. We tell ourselves we deserve it.

Quite right. But nothing – not a World Series game or concert tickets – is worth maxing out the credit cards for.

Take it from Bob Marley: "You entertain people who are satisfied. Hungry people can't be entertained – or people who are afraid. You can't entertain a man who has no food."

Our Readers Write

Lowering the Bar on Mental Health: Why Ontarians should be concerned

Becoming a psychologist in Ontario has always been a long, rigorous, and carefully regulated process—and that is intentional. Psychologists work in areas that directly affect people's safety, mental health, learning, legal outcomes, and long-term wellbeing. The high standards exist to protect the public.

Psychologists do far more than provide therapy. They are among the few regulated professionals with the legal authority to diagnose. They diagnose learning disabilities, autism, and psychiatric disorders. They conduct assessments that influence school accommodations, disability supports, court decisions, public safety planning, treatment access, and more.

In my own practice as a clinical forensic psychologist, I conduct specialized assessments that help determine whether someone poses a risk of violence, whether they are fit to stand trial, or whether they are ready to be released from custody. These are high-stakes decisions that shape lives and affect public safety.

Continued on Page A15

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In the spirit of ...

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



A number of faith traditions are celebrated in December. Chief amongst them (as we are bombarded daily with reminders) is Christmas. However, no matter how you might celebrate during this holiday season, one thing remains consistent: not everyone has the financial means to celebrate.

In the spirit of the season … however you and your family choose to acknowledge it, perhaps consider incorporating some form of "holiday giving" as part of your annual traditions.

Whether you agree with the commercialization of Christmas, there's no denying that most children believe in some form of benevolent being. It might be Santa Claus, or a magical elf, or La Befana, Gnomes, Father Christmas or Kris Kringle. Whomever your child believes might be visiting sometime between December 25 - January 6, there's a good chance they'll be anxiously anticipating the arrival of some sort of gift. What a perfect world it would be if every child received one. Perhaps you can help make that happen.

Here are just a few suggestions on how you can help locally.

Caledon Community Services are hosting a Family Day of Giving at The Exchange on Healey Road.

Happening this Saturday, December 6, families are invited to a "fun, hands-on day of volunteering." Activities will include sorting food donations, preparing meals and "spreading warmth to neighbours in need." The hot cocoa is "on the house," and participants are encouraged to bring along a donation of non-perishable food or everyday essential items. CCS is also collecting monetary donations through their Season of Hope campaign, available online anytime.

Perhaps Friday night's Christmas in the Valley is more your style. It promises fun for everyone, but will also feature an opportunity to drop off a non-perishable food item or a new, unwrapped toy, at Santa's photo booth, hosted by the Humberview Huskies football team. As well, throughout our community, many local businesses both small and large are either hosting and/or supporting food and toy drives. Some are also providing matching dollar for dollar campaigns to several of our local charities, CCS included. To each of these companies, as well as to each and every one of you, thank you for your charitable giving.

Caledon Meals on Wheels supports area seniors, including through their Holiday Dinners for Seniors program. This holiday season, CMOW is one of the organizations whose donations are being matched, up to $7,500, so any help you can provide will have an even greater impact.

Seniors are often left out of the holiday hustle and bustle in our earnest endeavours to make sure kids have a happy holiday, but many seniors are lonely and/or without loved ones nearby and making a donation goes a long way providing them with a hot meal and the knowledge that our community cares.

The Christmas Season is also a wonderful opportunity, if you are able, to teach your children about the joy of giving. Consider the age of your child(ren) and ask them to help you shop for an item a child their age might appreciate. Talk about budgeting and what your family, and perhaps even your child, can afford to pay. Maybe even factor in the cost of something like batteries if the toy requires them.

By getting your children involved in the decision-making AND the gift giving itself, the experience can be both a learning opportunity in basic math and budgeting as well as introducing the concept of philanthropy.

Luckily, we could go on and on. That means we truly have a community who cares about all its inhabitants and is ready, willing and able to step up to offer support for our neighbours who may be experiencing difficulties during these trying, tariff-laden, challenging times.

Embrace the opportunity to give back in a way that is meaningful for your family. Do a little research online as to where and how you can donate locally, or use this column as a guidepost.

I might have a bit of a reputation for "calling out" some of the people, events and happenings around Town that frustrate me (that's putting it mildly) but even for me, December should be a time when we think about our fellow residents in a more charitable way.

If you can, and in the spirit of the season …. donate or volunteer in whatever way the spirit of the season means for you and your family.





PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!



ARTS & CULTURE

Local author Glenn Carley releases next book in The Adventures of Stella series

Stella: In Search of Elderfish is latest title in series

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



Glenn Carley and his co-imagineer Adriana Carley. **PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY**

Glenn Carley, a local Bolton author, has published numerous books over the years, including the first book in his beloved series, The One About Stella: A Little Fish.

Now, Carley invites Stella lovers back into the whimsical underwater world as he releases book two in the series, "Stella: In Search of Elderfish."

In this book, Stella the Rainbow Trout and her friends deal with new challenges and adventures on the Great River.

Readers will be able to watch the story unfold as Stella and her friends seek to consult with ElderFish, the great river sturgeon, and along the way face real-world challenges such as pollution and predators.

Readers will be happy to know about the return of numerous characters from the first book, including Slingo the Salamander and Pliny the Osprey.

What began as a bedtime story for Carley's daughter, Adriana, has become a world of adventure for young readers and their parents to enjoy in Caledon and beyond.

Carley grew up in a literary world, enjoying books sent to him from his aunt around Christmastime, often stuffed with chocolate.

"Once you start reading, you want to start writing," says Carley.

He began writing in his 20s and has since published works such as Polenta at Midnight: Tales of Gusto and Enchantment in North York; Jimmy Crack Corn: A Novel in C Minor; and other children's books, including The Long Story of Mount Pester.

He also worked for numerous years as Chief Social Worker in a Toronto-area school board, where he was able to take a year off for professional development in 2007.

During that year, Carley could often be found up at 6 a.m. writing away at his desk with a coffee in hand.

It was in this year that Polenta at Midnight: Tales of Gusto and Enchantment in North York was published.

From there, he continued writing, often drawing on inspirations from his own life, including where he grew up, and his family.

When Adriana was about eight years old, every night she would ask him, "Can we tell a story, but can it be the one about Stella?"

Carley says that he wanted to honour that time "as father and daughter."

In the Stella series, the perspective is from the trout's eyes as it explores the underwater world, which Carley says stems from his time as a scuba diver and Adriana's own scuba-diving experience where they got to enjoy the underwater world together.

Carley credits Adriana as his "co-imagineer" and inspiration of the series, often working together and bouncing ideas off one another.

"The beautiful thing to me as a father is that with all four Stella stories, because they're told initially as a bedtime tale to a daughter, all the characters, the majority are female girls, and I love that," says Carley. "It's about going for the solution, problem-solving, and being adventurous."

"It's really about their adventures, and still a coming-of-age, which I think is beautiful."

Carley says his readership is everything to him.

For every new book he releases, he saves a copy for the Caledon Public Library.

In the Stella series in particular, Carley pushed to work with an illustrator for the covers and recruited Shelagh Armstrong.

Armstrong is a Canadian illustrator who shares her enthusiasm for painting by teaching part-time at Sheridan College.

"I like the notion of bringing other people's art into my art, and I also like the notion of installation art, which means you participate in it."

The Stella series aligns very much with Carley's love of installation art; each book is accompanied by pages after each chapter where readers can draw what they envision themselves.

"What do you think Stella looks like to you?" says Carley. "They're hearing it, they're imagining it, and they're trying to comprehend it, and now they get a chance to talk about their imagination and express that, it all kind of helps with comprehension, which I find beautiful."

Each book also begins with a hand-drawn map done by Carley and Adriana, adding a personal touch to each story.

In the new book in the series, readers will follow Stella on her journey and learn about real issues impacting the Great River, where Carley introduces real-life problems and solutions, such as pollution and conservation efforts.

Growing up near the water himself, Carley says he likes to add accuracy to his books and essential topics.

With his new book set to hit the shelves this month, Carley encourages the community to make the shift to shop local.

For Carley, he notes that if he's going to spend the price of a coffee, he'd rather spend a little more and support a local author.

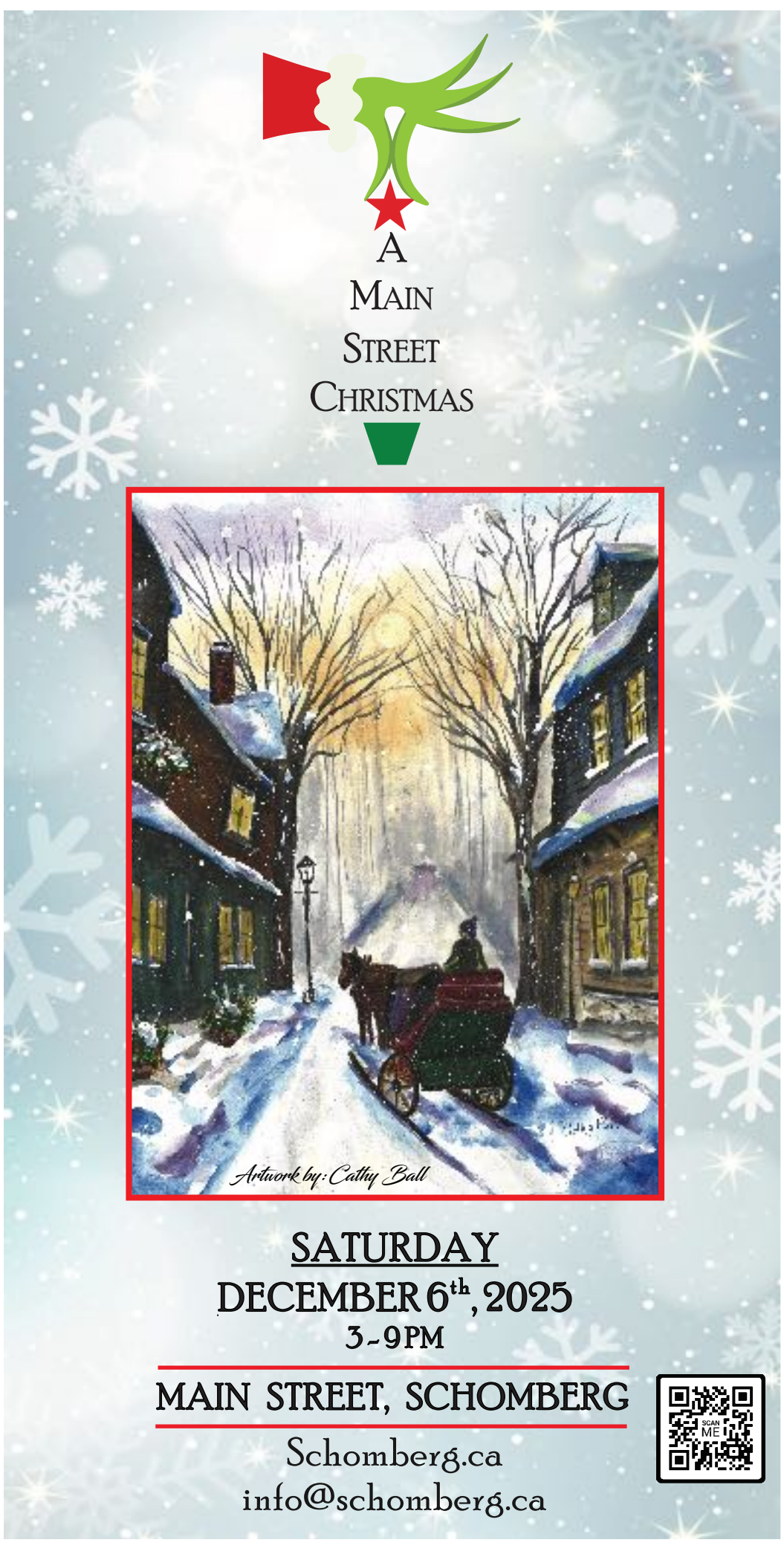
With his series, Carley hopes that children can enjoy and participate in it, and that it will encourage budding young authors.

To him, dreams are like arrows, and even though they don't always land exactly where you want them to, it's important that you follow them again and again, he says.

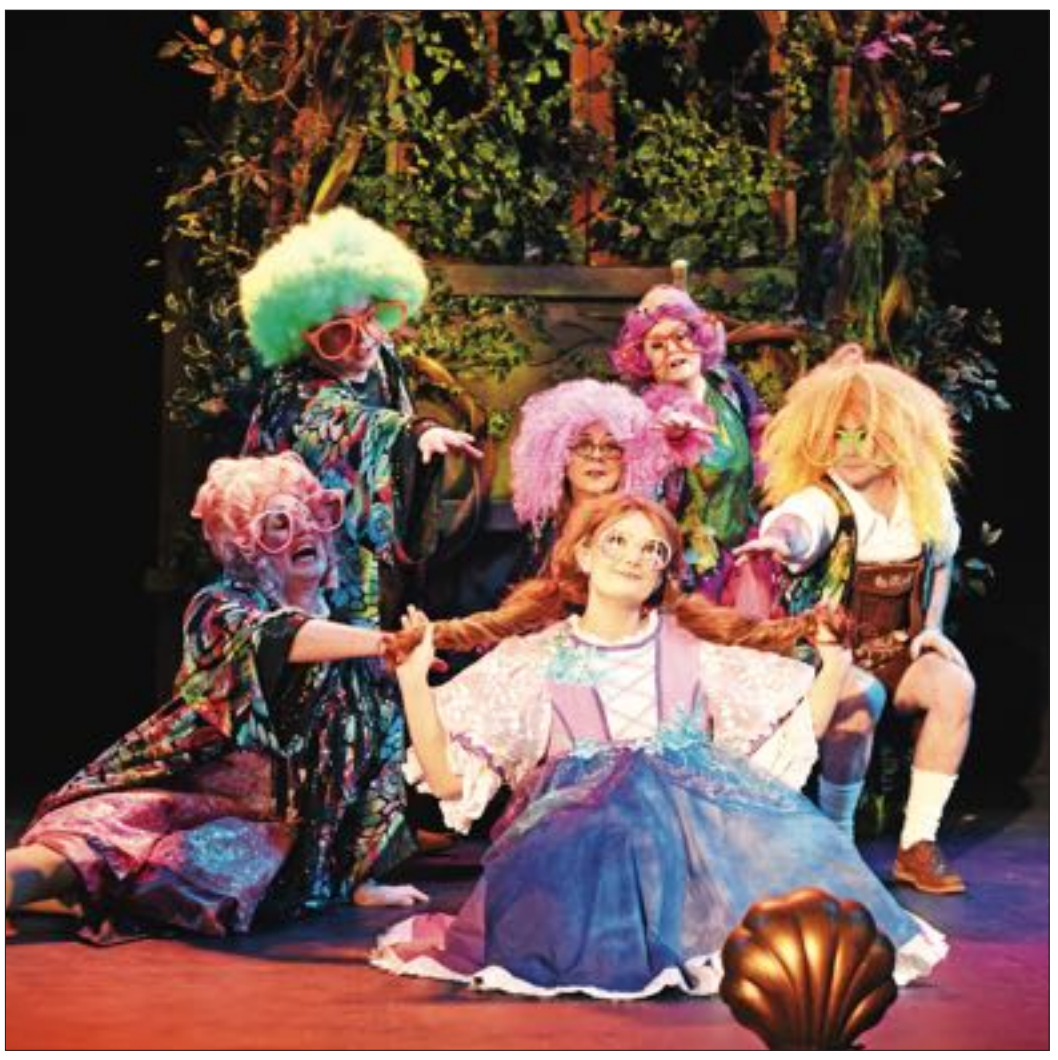
"It really is important to have a dream as a writer, to be tenacious, and to get your arrows."

Following Stella: In Search of ElderFish will be the next two books in the series: book three, Stella: A Rescuer in the Wetlands, and book four, Stella: A Curious Migration, both in press in 2026 at Rock's Mills Press.

To find his newest book, eager readers can seek it out at rocksmillspress.com, as well as at the Caledon Public Library, as always.







A HAIR-RAISING HIT: Theatre Orangeville's Rapunzel: A Braid New World is the latest seasonal Pantomime and an absolute joy to experience. From Dundalk disses to a Footloose rendition, Rapunzel has something for everyone to enjoy. **SHARYN AYLIFFE PHOTO**

Rapunzel: A Braid New World features hilariously dramatic retelling of beloved fairy tale

BY JOSHUA DRAKES

Theatre Orangeville's latest pantomime production is funny, visually appealing and absolutely worth seeing for some much-needed laughs during the holiday season.

When one thinks of Rapunzel, plenty of things might come to mind - but Footloose probably isn't one of them. Yet you may be surprised more than once by Theatre Orangeville's dynamic retelling of the classic tale, which premiered last Friday.

Created by David Nairn, the theatre's artistic director emeritus, who returned to the director's chair, and Debbie Collins, Rapunzel: A Braid New World is the theatre's newest seasonal pantomime – and the company has once again delivered a stellar performance.

The story, without giving too much away, begins with an extremely poorly executed vegetable theft – one committed against the most wicked lady in the region, Vexangria. In his desperation to avoid a swiftly approaching reckoning, the thief strikes a bargain for his safe return, sacrificing his still-unborn child, who will grow into the Rapunzel we all know.

If this feels like an extreme escalation over stolen produce, you'd be right – but this is pantomime, and it's only the beginning of this wacky tale.

Audiences are introduced to a colourful range of quirky characters - fairies, witches, monsters, and magic mirrors – and each performance lands perfectly. The cast, returning from last year's pantomime, showcases expert comedic timing and musical talent, consistently earning laughs and applause.

The actors play off one another with such fluidity that it's easy to forget you're watching a production at all, rather than a genuine conversation between a baker and a witch. A hallmark of good pantomime is adaptability, and this cast excels at engaging the audience, reacting to their energy, and never letting a moment fall flat.

The blocking is equally well handled. No character ever feels underused or lost, even in full-cast scenes. Everyone remains visible, acknowledged, and ready with a joke or one-liner. Even when simply moving a prop, each performer stays in character, adding charm and humour through expressions and asides.

The jokes themselves are up-to-the-minute, with plenty of humour at Dundalk's expense. Running gags – from easy-bake ovens to Vexangria's increasingly elaborate walking aids and Gen Z slang that leaves you unsure whether to laugh or cringe – this production keeps the audience cracking up every other minute.

The musical numbers match the show's quirky energy. Audiences are encouraged to sing along if they can keep up. Fans of classic hits are treated to Footloose, while lovers of musical theatre will enjoy a nod to The Pirates of Penzance.

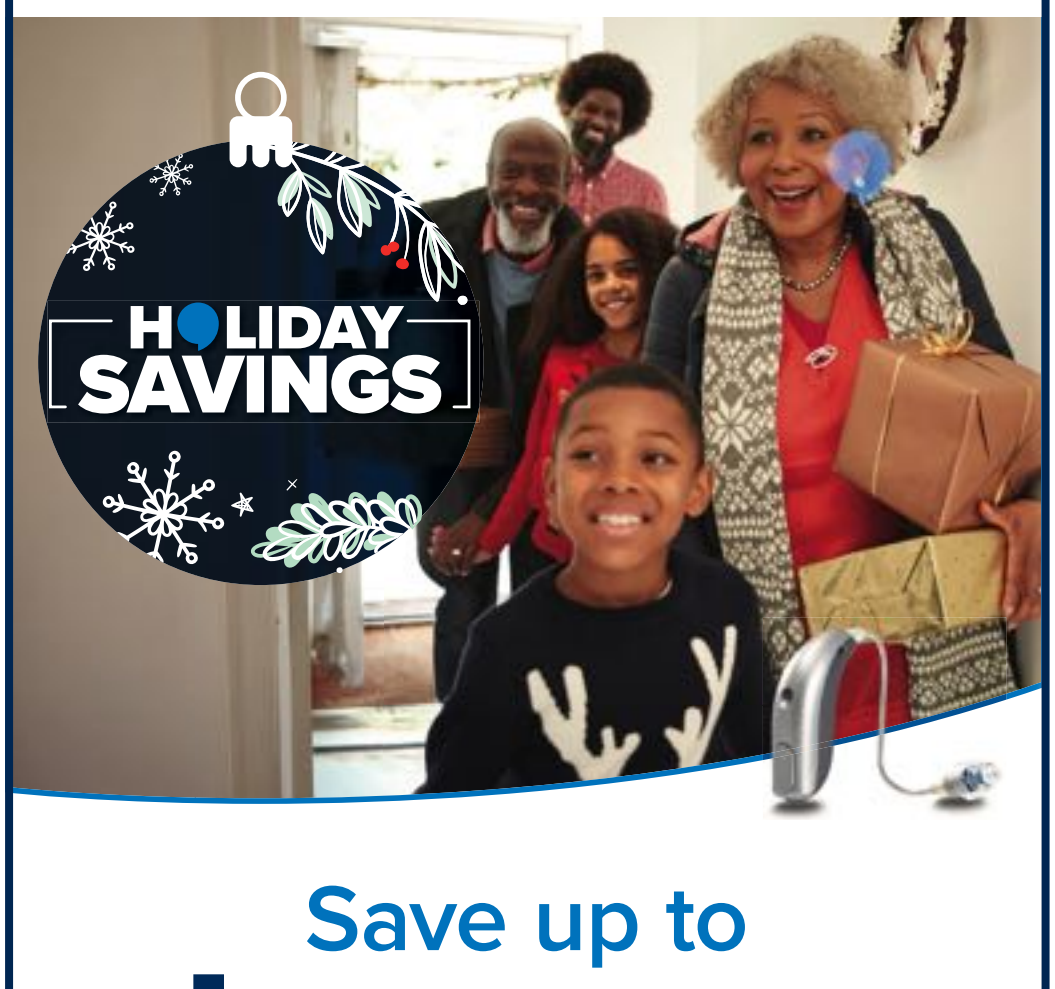
Live music adds even more charm. The decision to feature an on-stage performer providing well-timed sound effects and piano accompaniment adds an extra layer of warmth to the production that would have lacked without it.

Of course, no Theatre Orangeville show is complete without standout design work, and this production is no exception. The set is expertly crafted and makes excellent use of the stage space. Rapunzel's tower - or half-tower - rotates to reveal multiple settings and can be moved forward for a key solo or pushed back as Rapunzel searches for her long-lost friend (who may or may not be directly beneath it during a musical number).

Nothing is underused or left unoptimized. Nairn and the Theatre Orangeville team have once again raised the bar, delivering a production the town can take pride - and plenty of laughs - in.

Rapunzel: A Braid New World is a wacky, funny, unforgettable show that theatregoers won't want to miss. Catch it now through December 21.

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BUSINESS

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Credit Valley Conservation's offer to purchase "Swan Lake" denied

Continued from FRONT

The community has been advocating for "Swan Lake" for months and its "rehabilitated ecosystem," drawing emphasis to those who live in the area surrounding the property, as well as the numerous animals who have now made the property their home.

These species include Trumpeter Swans, which have given the property its name, known by many as "Swan Lake."

In a statement to the Citizen, CVC shared that "that the offer presented was not successful and appreciates Brookvalley's willingness to entertain an offer for acquisition."

"While the offer itself is confidential, the offer value was based on a property appraisal conducted by a third-party accredited appraiser and in accordance with CVC and Region of Peel Greenlands Securement Program (GSP) Terms, on current permitted uses for the property and in keeping with values for other recent sales of similar lands in the area," stated Sophia Maio, Senior Manager, Marketing and Communications with CVC.

"CVC remains committed to land acquisition in the Credit River Watershed to strategically secure new lands to expand the amount of protected greenspace," says Maio.

"CVC's ability to respond quickly to this opportunity was only made possible by the ongoing support of Peel's Greenlands Securement Program (GSP) and Credit Valley Conservation Foundation (CVCF). Both partners play a critical role in allowing CVC to remain agile and responsive when acquisition opportunities arise."

The CVC board passed the resolution for the potential acquisition in September, which had originally been introduced by CVC Board members including Regional Councillor Christiana Early.

"As a CVC board member and Regional Councillor, I'm disappointed CVC's effort to purchase Swan Lake from the previous owner was rejected, denying Caledon a vital expansion of Pinchin Pit Conservation Area," says Early.

"This lost chance underscores the need for transparent and ethical processes to prioritize environmental protection over short-term development gains, preserving our Greenbelt heritage for future generations."

She adds that the proposal means years of "heavy truck traffic hauling fill from the GTA, disrupting our community's peace and safety."

"It is unfortunate that some members of this current Council are unaware that this proposal does not reflect the local community's priorities," says Early. "This is unnecessary given that the pit is already fully rehabilitated and serving as a cherished natural habitat."

"Swan Lake," will now return to Council.

When the motion was initially approved, it was stated that Staff were directed to prepare a report to Council or the Planning and Development Committee with respect to the matter before entering into an agreement.

Brookvalley Project Management Inc. was contacted for a statement, but had not responded to the Citizen's request by press time this week.

Pre-packaged donation bags at local grocery stores support Orangeville Food Bank

BY JAMES GERUS

Several Orangeville grocery stores are continuing their pre-packaged donation bag program in town with the Orangeville Food Bank, providing an assorted bag of non-perishable food items for those in need; a great gift for families in the community seeking food this holiday season.

The Orangeville food bank has seen an increase in the number of people in the community looking for food over the past few years.

One of the programs they have strategized is having a variety of prepackaged bags containing non-perishable food items near the checkout counters of various grocery stores. They are easy to spot: brown paper bags filled with non-perishable items, including soup, rice, dry pasta, and oatmeal. Snacks and dessert items such as cookies and crackers may also be included in the bags.

Carrie-Anne DeCaprio, the Orangeville Food Bank's director of donor engagement and outreach, explains that while this program was founded before she arrived, it is nevertheless an incredibly helpful way to bring in more food for the community.

Explaining how it works, DeCaprio said, "We at the Orangeville Food Bank, at the beginning of every month, send out our most needed list to the grocery stores, and whenever possible, they try and make sure those items are put into the donation bags."

Three major Orangeville-based grocery stores currently participating in the program include Sobeys, FreshCo., and Metro. The bags are priced differently so customers can choose a price that fits their budget, with some at $10 and others at $15.

Moreover, some bags include items for different needs, such as bags of food specifically suited for infants or bags with only household items. After purchase, the bags are placed in a donation bin, usually near the front of the store, and volunteers pick them up every week.

On a more creative note, some customers may occasionally find some of the bags drawn in crayon. One of the managers at Sobeys reaches out to local elementary schools and gets the young students to decorate the bags in a way only kids can. The students will create a variety of illustrations on the bags and write a positive message or two.

The purchase of the bags is especially needed as the number of people visiting the Orangeville Food Bank is increasing. Just last month, they saw 1,566 people come through their front door seeking assistance.

In addition to the pre-packaged donation bags in grocery stores, they have launched their Festive Giving Campaign with the Orangeville Citizen, offering Festive Giving Cards, purchased as donations to the food bank, which are then gifted for Christmas.

On how the specific food in the bags is especially needed around the holidays, DeCaprio adds the convenience of the pre-selected bags, "makes giving the donations easy. It's items we need that are pre-packaged so you can feel good about purchasing them at the local grocery stores."

New recycling provider

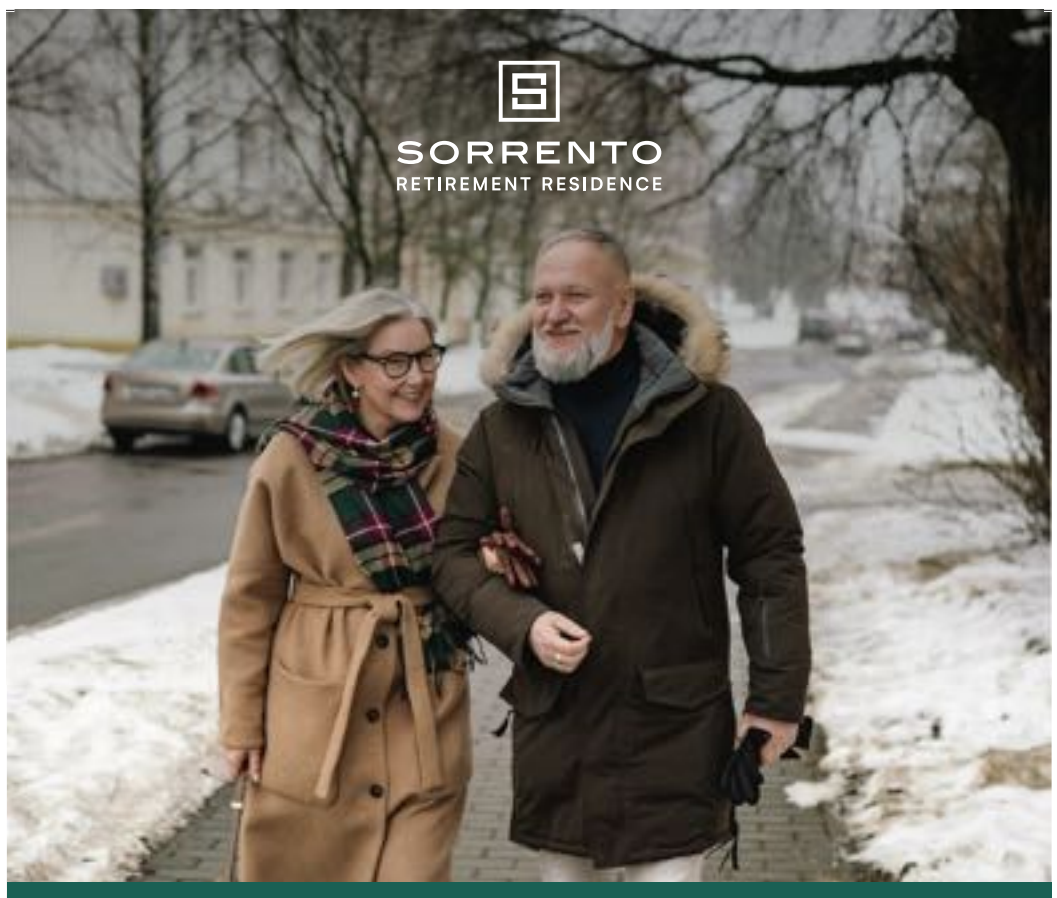
Same bin, same schedule



As of January 1, recycling will be managed by **Circular Materials**, instead of Peel Region.

circularmaterials.ca/peelregion

WMG-1047_04 25/11



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Sorrento December Events

Winter Wonderland Social
DECEMBER 4 | 2:30PM
Enjoy our live Winter Wonderland carolers singing non-Christmas winter songs, and sip on hot cocoa or cider with festive twists.

Winter Market & Bake Sale
DECEMBER 12 | 10:30AM-3:00PM
Join us for our annual Winter Market with local handmade gifts, seasonal treats, and fresh in-house goodies from the Sorrento Bake Sale.

Chocolate Cultural Experience
DECEMBER 19 | 2:30PM
Drop in for a rich, interactive chocolate experience inspired by Belgium or Switzerland, with a chocolate-making demo, tasting bar, and insights into traditional craftsmanship. A delicious event not to miss.

Winter Paint & Sip Event
DECEMBER 30 | 2:30PM
We'll end the month with a relaxing Winter Paint & Sip, featuring a guided seasonal painting, hot toddy options (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), and a light chestnut snack.
$10 ENTRY FEE

Have questions or want to book a personal tour?
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647.228.7143 | info@sorrentoretirement.com
10 Station Rd. Bolton
(just West of King & Queen)

Caledon Community Services launches annual Season of Hope campaign

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Community Services (CCS) has launched its annual Season of Hope campaign.

In this campaign, every donation made before December 31, 2025, will be matched by Mars Canada.

Each amount gifted to CCS will be doubled, dollar-for-dollar, up to $25,000, which CCS shares will bring comfort and care to neighbours in need.

CCS said in a media release that hunger and poverty have become an everyday reality for far too many families, youth, children and seniors here in the community.

"The rise in food bank use across Canada is mirrored in Caledon, where more families than ever are turning to CCS for help," they said. "Hunger and poverty live next door. But so does hope and you can bring it to Caledon."

"At Mars Canada, we believe that strong communities are built when we take action together," said Tamar Nersesian, Director of Corporate Affairs, Mars Canada.

Nersesian said their commitment to Caledon Community Services reflects their purpose of creating a better world for people and pets.

"By matching donations this season, we're helping to ensure that families in Caledon have access to nourishment, support and hope, not just today, but for a brighter tomorrow," said Nersesian.

Geraldine Aguiar, CEO, Caledon Community Services, says that last year CCS' Exchange Food Bank saw a record number of visits, "and that record is about to be broken again."

"Every day, we see parents skipping meals so their kids can eat, seniors forced to make impossible choices and newcomers rebuilding their lives from empty cupboards. This is what poverty looks like in Caledon. It's real, it's urgent and it's right next door," says Aguiar.

"But thanks to Mars Canada and our extraordinary community, hope is here, too. Together, we can ensure that no one in Caledon will face hardship alone this season and beyond," she adds.

Donations will go towards helping more than 1,300 Caledon neighbours with

nutritious meals, help with utility payments, and support on the path to health and independence, says CCS.

Donations can be made online at ccs4u.org/donate or by calling 905-584-2300 ext. 260.

"Double your impact. Bring hope home to Caledon," says CCS.

Our Readers Write

Continued from Page A10

These responsibilities cannot be done safely with shortcuts.

What the College Is Proposing

The College has proposed sweeping changes that would reduce psychologist training by up to 75%. These include:

- Cutting supervised hours by up to 75%
- Removing accredited training requirements
- Eliminating specialty areas such as school, clinical, forensic, or neuropsychology
- Replacing ethics exams with a no-fail module
- Removing the final oral exam that confirms a candidate is competent and safe

Under this model, I—trained in forensic psychology—would technically be permitted to conduct neuropsychological assessments for brain injury or early dementia. I have zero training in neuropsychology, and ethically I never would. But candidates trained under a drastically reduced model may not fully understand their limits or may be pressured to "do everything."

The implication is clear: Ontario could soon have large numbers of professionals legally allowed to diagnose, but without the training to do so.

This is how people get misdiagnosed.

This is how children lose access to essential school supports.

This is how important safety risks get missed.

Why This Matters for Ontarians

Lower training standards will have real consequences. Even small increases in misdiagnosis or inadequate care carry significant financial and human costs. Research and provincial data show:

A 10% rise in misdiagnosis of bipolar disorder could cost taxpayers roughly $244 million annually.

A 10% increase in misdiagnosis among youth with complex mental health needs adds an estimated $15 million per year.

A conservative 3% rise in suicide attempts linked to inadequate or non-evidence-based care could cost Ontario an additional $40 million annually.

Lowering standards does not save money. It increases suffering, increases demand for services, and increases long-term costs.

But Isn't This About Access?

The College argues that lowering training standards will increase access to care. But access to what? Faster appointments with less qualified clinicians?

Ontario would never improve access to family doctors by cutting medical school or replacing exams with no-fail modules. Yet psychology—the profession responsible for diagnosing mental health and learning conditions—is being asked to accept dramatically reduced standards.

There Is a Better Way to Improve Access

Access challenges stem from chronic underfunding, high private-sector costs, and a long-standing shortage of psychologists in public settings—not from current licensing standards. Ontario has significantly more psychologists than psychiatrists, yet, only 12% of psychologists work in hospital, government funded positions. Reducing training will not fix these systemic issues.

We already have a proven model that expands access without lowering standards: the Ontario Structured Psychotherapy (OSP) Program. OSP expanded access to free, evidence-based care. Psychologists as systems leaders, led the design, developed training, supervised teams, ensure quality, and evaluate outcomes—while social workers, psychotherapists, and other trained providers deliver high-quality care at scale.

This is how you increase access: through strong systems, not lowered qualifications.

Why This Matters for You and Your Family

Think of your child struggling to learn.

A teen having suicidal thoughts.

An aging parent with early memory loss.

A young person in the justice system needing a fair assessment.

Would you want their diagnosis made by someone trained under a drastically reduced model?

If not, your voice matters—now.

When Is Action Needed?

Complete the College's survey before December 9:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/BZ5SB8Q

For more information and resources, visit the Psychology Advocacy Network (PAN): www.psychadvocacy.ca

DR. HELEN CHAGIGIORGIS, PH.D., C. PSYCH
BOLTON



Public Notice

Region of Peel
working with you

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #3

Schedule C Class Environmental Assessment

Kennedy Road Sanitary Trunk Sewer Project

Background:

Peel is growing, and we want to ensure our community remains a great place to live, work and play. Peel's Flow | Central Brampton Program is advancing 30+ essential water and wastewater infrastructure projects, faster, throughout Brampton.

The province has committed to building 1.5 million more homes in Ontario over the next decade—with 113,000 in Brampton. These provincial housing targets have significantly increased the demand for water, wastewater and road infrastructure.

Flow | Central Brampton will meet these demands by combining more than 30 water and wastewater projects into one large-scale construction program across Brampton, including the Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) Study for the Kennedy Road Sanitary Trunk Sewer Project. This Project will help ensure sewage capacity requirements are met by 2051 to support growth in Peel Region. Refer to Figure 1 for Project Study area, including the recommended preferred route.

Process:

This study has been following the 2024 process for a Schedule "C" MCEA project, which includes:

- Indigenous community engagement and public and stakeholder consultation
- Background studies
- Development, evaluation, and selection of sewer route options, impact assessment and mitigation measures
- Development, evaluation, and selection of the preferred sewer construction methodology, including shaft locations

Public Information Centre #3

We invite you to join us for Public Information Centre #3, where we will present the results of the completed evaluation of construction methods and shaft locations, with opportunities to provide feedback and ask questions.

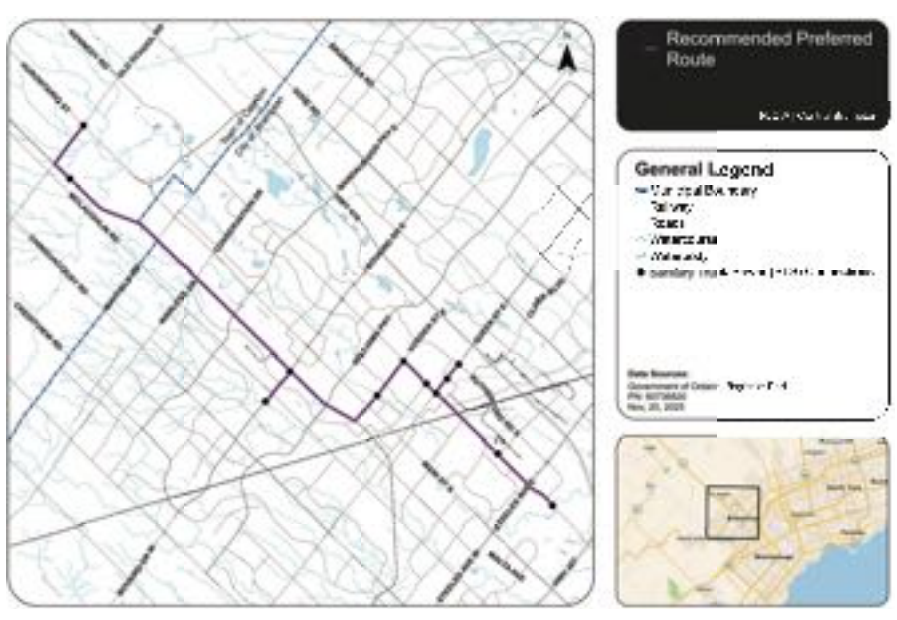
All materials will be posted online, including a survey open until January 5, 2026.

- **When:** Thursday, December 11, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Paul Palleschi Recreation Centre (30 Loafers Lake Lane, Brampton ON L6Z 1X9), Meeting Room 2

Once the study is complete, results will be published in an Environmental Study Report (ESR) and will be made available for public review and comment.

We invite you to attend the Public Information Centre, review the materials posted on the Project website and respond to the survey.

Figure 1: Project study area and selected route



This notice was first issued on November 27, 2025

Contact the Team:

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

Italia Ponce, P.Eng.
Project Manager, Region of Peel
Tel: 905-791-7800 ext. 4583
Email: italia.ponce@peelregion.ca

Faranak Amirsalari, MES, MCIP, RPP
Environmental Planner, AECOM
Tel: 416-420-1286
Email: faranak.amirsalari@aecom.com

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

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SAVE $5.98 ON 2

Boursin Cheese or Boursin Cuisine
150-220g pkg
Individual 6.99
selected varieties

2 FOR $10



1.99/LB
Fresh Hothouse Beefsteak Tomatoes
Product of Ontario or Mexico
4.39/kg



SAVE $4.00

10.99
Evian Natural Spring Water
6x1L bottles
selected varieties



SAVE $3.00

9.99
Häagen-Dazs Ice Cream
946mL tub
selected varieties



SAVE $3.00

Classico Pasta Sauce
218-650mL jar
selected varieties

2.99



SAVE AT LEAST $3.58 ON 2

Campbell's Ready to Serve, Chunky or Habitant Soup
515-796mL can
Individual $2.99
selected varieties

2 FOR $5



SAVE UP TO $2.00

5.99
Cracker Barrel or Longo's Cheese Bar or Shreds
320-400g pkg
selected varieties



SAVE AT LEAST $5.00

Longo's Frozen Black Tiger Shrimp
454g pkg
Raw Easy Peel 21-25ct or Cooked 41-50ct
selected varieties

10.99



SAVE $1.00

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4.49
Longo's Cranberry Pumpkin Seed Bread
450g pkg



SAVE $2.00

Arte® Fresh Salad Kits
328-373g pkg
selected varieties

3.99



3.99
Fresh Bagged Avocados
Product of Mexico
5 pack



SAVE UP TO $7.50

7.49
SpongeTowels Paper Towels 3=6 rolls, **Cashmere Bath Tissue** 8/12=24 rolls or **Scotties Facial Tissue** 6 pack
selected varieties



SAVE UP TO $10.00

Lavazza Espresso Coffee Beans
Qualita Rossa or Crema e Gusto
1kg pkg

24.99



SAVE UP TO $1.00

2.99
Christie Cookies or Crackers
175-303g pkg
selected varieties



SAVE $1.50

Earth's Own Beverages
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selected varieties

3.49

LOW PRICE LOCKDOWN



3.99
Gray Ridge Large White Eggs
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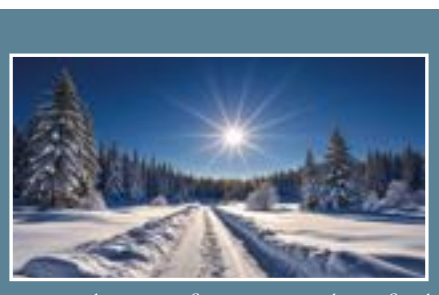


1.99
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~ *unknown*

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Hall Wolfpack defeats St. Joan of Arc Knights 25-13 to win OFSAA's Central Bowl and cap historic football season



Wolfpack Quarterback Joseph Ferlito earned OFSAA Central Bowl MVP honours. Ferlito passed for two TDs and ran for another in Hall's 25 – 13 win over the St. Joan of Arc Knights from Barrie.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Quarterback Joseph Ferlito named Central Bowl MVP after 250-yard performance

BY JIM STEWART

The Robert F. Hall CSS Wolfpack finished their magical 2025 season at the University of Guelph on Monday afternoon.

When it was all said and done at Gryphons Stadium, Hall's Senior Football team hoisted its third championship trophy and fourth banner this month.

The Wolfpack defeated the St. Joan of Arc Knights (Barrie) 25-13 to add the inscribed banner "OFSAA Football Champions—Central Bowl 2025" to the East Caledon Catholic high school's gymnasium wall.

Captains Nicholas Pagani, Mason Burke, and Tyler Fagan held the OFSAA hardware and pennant aloft in Guelph to signal another title earned this month—a joyous routine of late for the triumphant triumvirate.

It was Hall's first OFSAA football championship in a season of firsts: the school's first Metro Bowl championship was celebrated in Toronto last Wednesday and the first ROPSSAA Tier 1 Senior Football title was celebrated on home turf earlier in November.

In Guelph on Monday afternoon, Central Bowl MVP Joseph Ferlito threw two touchdown passes and ran for another versus the previously-undefeated Knights who rode into Gryphons Stadium with a pristine 9-0 record.

The Wolfpack quarterback helped defeat the Georgian Bay champs by going 15 for 19 in the air—contributing 233 passing yards to Hall's offensive attack. He praised his receiving corps who pulled in his fifteen completions versus St. Joan of Arc.

"I trust all my receivers equally. Our Captain Nick Pagani has always been reliable. He's a leader on our team."

Ferlito also praised the other two captains whose roles were vital to the success of the Wolfpack.

"Mason [Burke] is the star of our team. He's a game changer. His presence is electric and he brings momentum to the team. We lost Tyler [Fagan] in the game against Dwyer when he dislocated his kneecap. He was our centre and defensive tackle. On the O lIne, he was a veteran presence for the younger players."

Hall's MVP pivot provided some presence of his own in the Central Bowl not only through the air, but on the ground as he rushed for 17 yards including a TD.

Ferlito's only miscue versus the Knights was an interception thrown in the first quarter. Otherwise, the Wolfpack veteran QB put up numbers akin to Trevor Harris's performance as Grey Cup MVP three weeks ago in Winnipeg during Saskatchewan's 25-17 win over Montreal.

While the CFL and West Division champion Roughriders hoisted two trophies in November, the Wolfpack lifted three.

Hall's haul of hardware concluded an historic season for Ferlito, but the candid quarterback discussed the vital importance of bouncing back after throwing an interception on the opening series versus the Knights.

"We knew St. Joan of Arc was going to be the toughest opponent we've faced this season. After the interception, the D got the ball back for us a couple of times in a row. We put up a touchdown on our next possession – and did it again so I thought that was the turning point of the game."

Ferlito noted that when the Wolfpack offense, defense, and special teams performed optimally, it was difficult to stop the Green Machine in 2025.

"When all three played to our level, it was something special. We dominated teams. To be able to play our game and to execute the game plan that our coaches prepared for us was an accomplishment."

The Wolfpack had a number of two-way players this season and Ferlito singled out one of the versatile veterans who put in a fine performance at the Central Bowl.

"Bryce Prieur played a great game on Monday. As a two-way player, he caught passes and made an interception. He made pass breakups all game."

When asked about the legacy of the 2025 football team, Ferlito embraced the moment and discussed the most memorable aspect the Wolfpack's season: "What's most memorable for me is that we'll be able to look back and see what we achieved and accomplished for the program and as individuals."

"We were able to impact the program forever. Our coaches told us to 'leave a place better than you found it.' We had so many firsts this year--winning the championships for the school helped us make history."

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.*

FREE COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am.
Caledon East United Church,
6046 Old Church Rd.
Pancakes, eggs, sausages, yogurt, fruit, tea, coffee, juice
All are welcome!

Christmas Luncheon – Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025
The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton is having a Christmas Luncheon. The menu is roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, Yorkshire pudding, gravy, and dessert. Cost is $40. Dine-in served at 12:30 pm. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to buy your tickets. This is a dine-in only event.

Christmas Carol Singing
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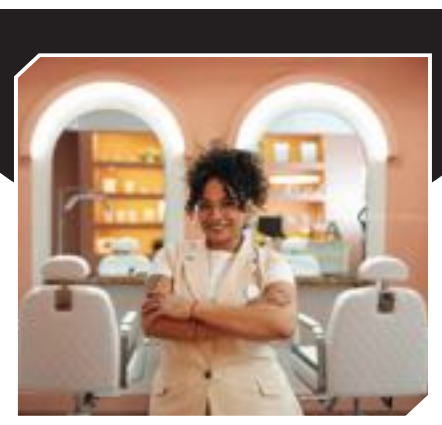
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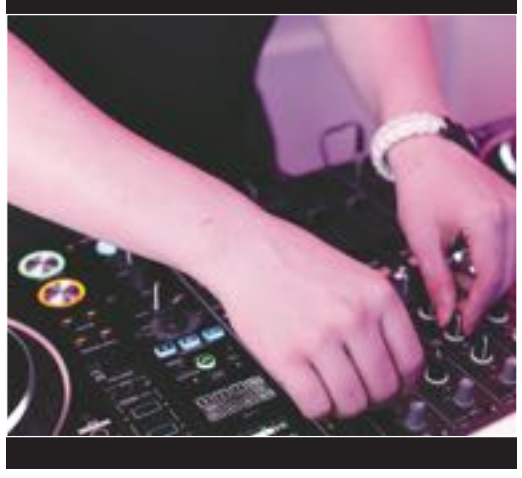




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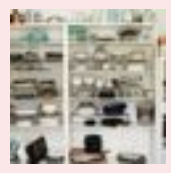
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Fastest 5k in Caledon's history at this year's C3 Nuvo Iron Egg Nog Jog



Enrico, Essence, and Dave. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

This year's C3 Canadian Cross Training Club Nuvo Iron Egg Nog Jog was record-breaking in multiple ways, whether it was 5k times, attendance, or donations for those in need.

Ten years ago, Caledon's C3 Canadian Cross Training Club took over the charitable event known as the "Egg Nog Jog," which had been run for three decades beforehand by the Georgetown Runners.

C3's Olympic head coach, Barrie Shepley, notes that the event has been growing ever since.

The sold-out 2025 event featured not only the returning 5k and 10k distances, but the brand-new kids' mile run.

The new features didn't stop there this year.

The event was held November 30 at a new location – TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley – and prize money was introduced this year to attract the country's best 5k runners.

"While the fast times, great food and venue are a big reason for our excitement, we are focused on getting food for the local food bank and toys for kids in need this holiday," said Shepley. "Bolton's Nuvo Iron has been an incredible partner for the last decade, and with the addition of the world-class Osprey Golf Course, we have the requirements for a new era of fast-fun-running in Caledon."

Fast-fun-running was surely achieved this past weekend, as Shepley shared they not only had a record number of participants, but also achieved their goal of the fastest 5k in Caledon's history.

The fastest 5k time of the day went to Windsor's Corey Bellemore, with a time of 14:22, who also holds the world record for the men's beer mile.

Shepley noted they also collected hundreds of toys and thousands of pounds of food for donation.

Although conditions weren't ideal, runners eagerly awaited the start of the race, many adorned in various costumes, bells and whistles.

In addition to Santa Claus, Jessey the Elf was back for the 10th consecutive year, ready to race.

Shepley noted that due to the six-plus hours of snow the previous night, TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley's staff had a dozen trucks out at 3 am preparing the course.

And the snow didn't stop there – the runners faced all the elements that Canadian winter had to offer at this year's race as snow and slush continued throughout the morning.

Returning to the starting line for the second year in a row was runner Charlotte Meek.

Meek shared she returned this year not just because she likes dressing up for the run, but also because she loves the environment and that it's a nice way to get active.

After the racing commenced, various whoops and hollers could be heard from the sidelines, and that was thanks to Essence, Enrico, and Dave, who were there to cheer on their partners, friends, and other runners in the race.

Also running that day was Enrico's wife, Romeena, who was doing her first 5k, alongside Dave's girlfriend Justyna, who he shares has enjoyed getting into running.

And if it hadn't been for an injury, Dave would have been running alongside her that day.

The three persevered through the weather and cheered as participants raced past them toward the finish line.

Snow, slush, and freezing winds didn't stand a chance against this year's spirit at the C3 Nuvo Iron Egg Nog Jog.

Orangeville Junior C Northmen celebrate successful lacrosse season

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Orangeville Junior C Northmen celebrated another successful season in the Ontario Junior C Lacrosse League (OJCLL) with a banquet to end the year and honour players and coaches for their achievements this season.

Since entering the OJCLL, the Northmen have consistently delivered a solid performance.

During their inaugural season in the League in 2020, they won the Meredith Cup – an almost unheard of achievement in any league.

The Northmen won their first game of the season back on April 27, during their opener against the Six Nations Stealth.

During the 2025 season, the Junior C Northmen finished in second place in the West Division standings before heading into the playoffs.

In the playoffs, the Northmen won the opening round over Six Nations.

They bowed out of the season after taking a loss to the Burlington Warriors in the second round.

The year-end banquet was a chance to celebrate their success and honour players who delivered exceptional performances throughout the season.

Logan Marshall was awarded Most Valuable Offensive Player.

Devan Doig was honoured with the Ron McGuire Award for Northmen of the Year. Christian Kasiulewicz was awarded the Top Goalie, West Division League Award and the Steve Payne Ward for Unsung Hero.

Wes Mills was named Rookie of the Year.

TJ Wilson-Daponte was honoured with the Top Graduating Player Award.

Corbin Clements was honoured with the Most Valuable Defensive Player award.

Logan Brake was named Player of the Year.

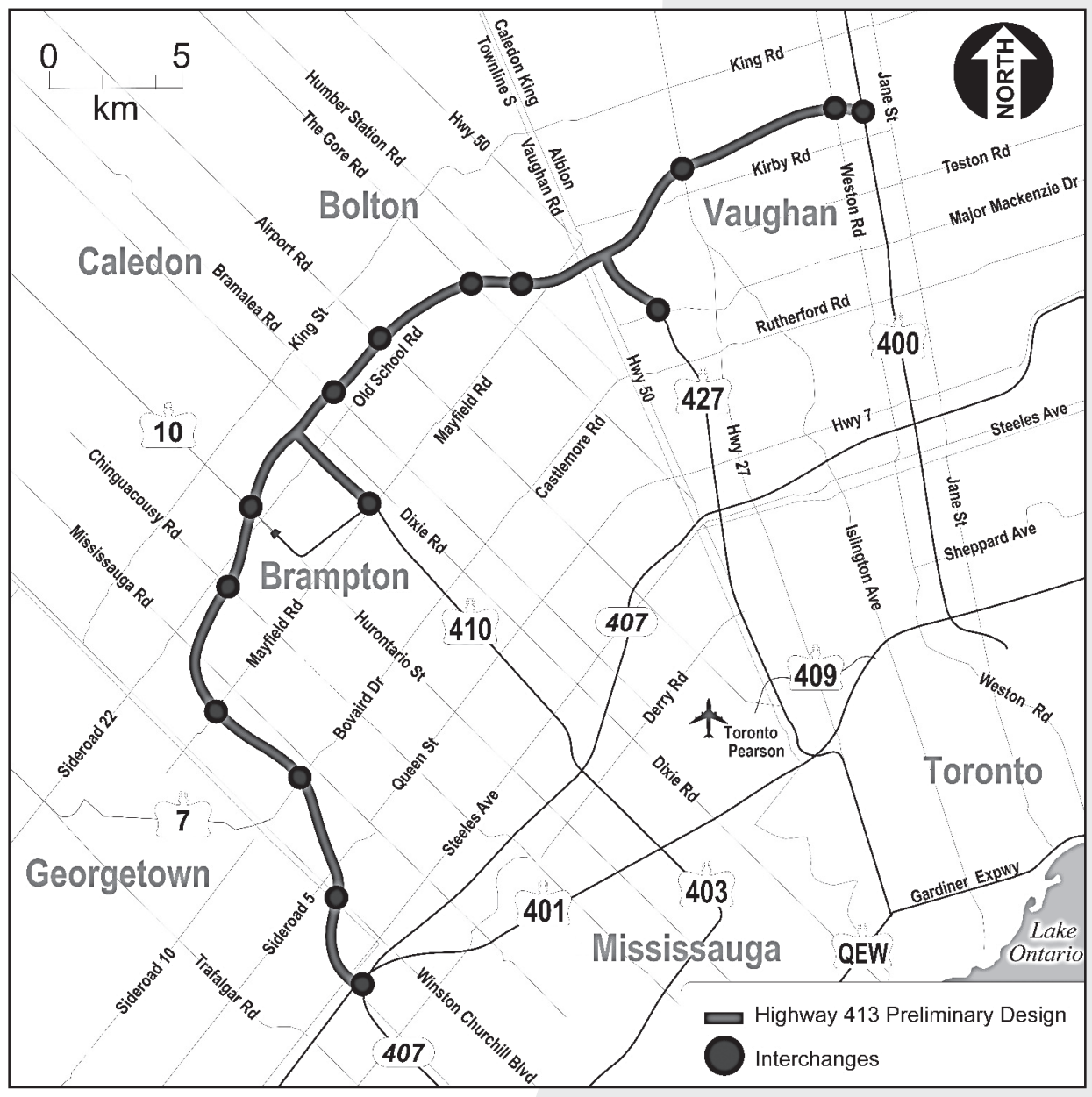
Cam McClintock was honoured as Most Valuable Defensive Player, West Division League Award and Transition Player of the Year.

Ontario Government Notice

Notice of Publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Highway 413 Preliminary Design and Assessment of Environmental Impacts

The Project

The Highway 413 Project will connect Highway 400 in the Regional Municipality of York to Highway 401 and Highway 407 Express Toll Route (407 ETR) in the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Regional Municipality of Peel. The completed corridor will create a total of 59 kilometres (km) of new highway infrastructure, including the 52 km Highway 413 corridor, a 4 km extension to Highway 410, and a 3 km extension to Highway 427, as well as 11 interchanges at municipal roads. Features such as stormwater management ponds, carpool lots, commercial vehicle inspection facilities and maintenance facilities have been included in the Preliminary Design. This key map shows the location of Highway 413 and extensions to Highway 410 and Highway 427.



Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

In accordance with Section 6 of the *Highway 413 Act, 2024*, a draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared to describe the Preliminary Design of the Highway 413 Project. The report outlines the various alternatives considered, the environmental studies completed for the Project and describes potential environmental impacts as well as proposed mitigation measures. It also includes record of consultation that summarizes the consultation and engagement carried out with Indigenous communities, regulatory agencies, stakeholders, and the public in respect of the Project's Preliminary Design.

The draft EIAR is available on the Project Website for comment from **December 1, 2025 until January 6, 2026.** Comments on the draft EIAR can be provided via the Project Website, Project Email or Project Telephone Number.

Project Website: highway413.ca/en/eiar OR highway413.ca/fr/rere

Project Email: project_team@highway413.ca

Project Telephone Number: 1-877-522-6916 (toll-free)

Please note it will not be possible to respond to each individual comment. This material will be maintained on file for use during the Project and may be included in project documentation. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.* Comments provided during the comment period by the public, federal and provincial agencies, municipal representatives, Indigenous communities, and other interested persons will be considered and described in the final EIAR.

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To simplify communications, all correspondence to any of the Project Leads can be directed to project_team@highway413.ca and phone inquiries to 1-877-522-6916 (toll-free).

Please contact us if you require any communications supports or require an alternate format to access this information or would like to update your contact information on the Project Contact List via the Project Email or "Contact Us" page on the Project Website.

Webinar

A webinar was held on December 3, 2025, to share information on the draft EIAR and provide insight on how to navigate the document. A recording of the session can be found on the Project Website.

The Ontario Government Notice was issued on **December 1, 2025**, in accordance with Section 7 of the *Highway 413 Act, 2024*.

Ontario

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