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FREE | Thursday, December 11, 2025 | Volume 45, Issue 48



HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS — This past weekend, the Bolton Kin Club hosted the 52nd Santa Claus Parade. This year, it was all about community as the parade lineup featured numerous local schools, sports clubs, businesses, bands and, of course, Santa Claus! (Inset) Hit That Note Studios was among the organizations taking part. For more on this year's event, see Page 6. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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Ontario issues RFP for Highway 410 extension connecting directly to future 413

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Ontario government held a press conference in Caledon Village Tuesday morning to announce the issuing of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to design an extension of Highway 410 that will directly connect to the future Highway 413.

Prabmeet Sarkaria, Ontario's Minister of Transportation, was joined by Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin—Caledon, Mayor Annette Groves, Amarjot Sandhu, MPP for Brampton West, Graham McGregor, MPP for Brampton North, Hardeep Grewal, MPP for Brampton East, and more.

The extension will be 9.1 kilometres from Highway 410 at Countryside Drive north to Highway 413, and from Highway 413 west to Highway 10.

This extension will be a direct link between the two highways, and Sarkaria shared that this extension will save drivers up to 30 minutes per trip.

The construction of the highways, they said, will support more than 6,000 jobs per year, and contribute more than a billion dollars to the Ontario economy.

"To protect our strong economy, we need a strong transportation network," says Sarkaria. "At a time when President Trump is taking direct aim at our economy, our government is doubling down on our plan to protect workers and jobs."

g to build and keep up with the new population growth that is happening in these regions of Peel, York and Halton."

Continued on Page 17

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PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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Downtown Bolton supports local at this year's Christmas in the Valley

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



ABOVE: Pictured here, left to right, are Councillor Tony Rosa, Cosimo Napoli, Caledon Town Crier Andrew Welch, Mayor Groves, and Mario Russo.
BELOW: Mayor Groves with the Humberview Huskies football team in front of their collection truck. **PHOTOS BY RILEY MURPHY**



Christmas in the Valley 2025, run by the Downtown Bolton BIA, celebrated Bolton and all it has to offer this past Friday.

The event included a vendor and artisan market, food trucks, a Christmas tree lighting, and special visits from Santa and the Grinch.

But the one aspect that shone through this year was the community's support for one another.

Whether through food, toy, and clothing donations or by supporting local businesses, Christmas in the Valley was a prime example of supporting local this season.

In exchange for free photos with Santa at the event, as in previous years, the Humberview Huskies Football team was collecting unwrapped toys and non-perishable food donations for their food and toy drive.

Chris Tinkler, Defensive Line Coach for Humberview, shared that the community's response had been "fantastic" and that they were receiving more donations than the previous year.

"People are really coming out and being generous," says Tinkler.

Adrian Piscitelli, Head Coach of the Humberview Huskies football team, said the team collected more than 270 pounds of food, as well as a car full of toys, which will go directly to helping those in need in the Caledon community.

In light of the giving spirit, Renewed Hope was also at Christmas in the Valley with their Relief Vehicle. Inside were racks of warm clothes and shoes.

Renewed Hope is a volunteer-run nationwide charity and nonprofit that works to deliver essential services, support, and resources to communities in need.

Tim with Renewed Hope shared that halfway through the night, they had already helped serve more than 60 people.

"We're about helping people get back on their feet," said Tim.

With their relief vehicles, they hope to expand their reach and help more people in the community.

Mayor Annette Groves noted the amount of work put into the event by community volunteers.

"This event is made possible with the volunteers from the Downtown Bolton BIA, as well as the BCC, the Bolton Community Crew volunteers," said Groves. "It's nice to see so many people out here enjoying the vendors, and the food vendors that are here. It's just a wonderful time of year."

Groves noted the effort to support local at this year's event.

"A lot of our vendors, they're having some challenges, as so many people are having challenges, and it's great that the community is here to support them. The Town is always behind them, supporting them, making sure they have what they need, and taking them through some of these hard times," said Groves.

One vendor was Bolton local Keely Masson, owner of Keely's Croch'eh! Creations, who was sharing her booth with her friend and vendor Carolyn Dawe, who was selling Scandinavian mittens and dolls.

Keely's Croch'eh! Creations featured handmade crochet creations such as blankets, shawls, dinosaurs, cats, and other fun furry friends.

Masson grew up in Bolton and shared that being able to sell her items back in her own community is "amazing."

"I love how the people of Bolton support local businesses. They hear that you're doing it hand-made, and people are very receptive and care a lot about that kind of thing," she said.

Masson was a vendor at previous years' Christmas in the Valley and shared that she was thrilled with last year's event.

"When [Dawe] said she was doing it again this year, I'm like, sign me up!"

As a crowd gathered around the Humber River Centre, Sarah Leslie, Downtown Bolton BIA's event coordinator, lit the tree following remarks from Caledon Council and the Town Crier's traditional verse of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

As the lights were lit and the marching band began to play, all eyes turned back to one of the main attractions, the free family photos with Santa, where the line spanned the inside of the Humber River Centre and out the front door.

After families had their photos taken, they were invited to stay inside and participate in crafts, such as making homemade reindeer food.

Caledon resident Kamla Rajkumar was enjoying the warmth inside with her family, and taking in all that the event had to offer.

Rajkumar shared her daughter was the one who told them about Christmas in the Valley after learning about it at school.

She said it turned out to be a beautiful event and a great way for the three of them to spend their Friday night.

Especially, she noted, "seeing the community come together."

Smells of kettle corn and hot chocolate filled the air as Caledon residents soaked up all that Christmas in the Valley had to offer, marking another successful year in the books.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Passing of Parkland Dedication By-law No. 2025-087

TAKE NOTICE that the Council for The Corporation of the Town of Caledon passed By-law No. 2025-087 on the 28th of October 2025, under Section 42 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13. This by-law requires land and/or cash in lieu of land for park or other recreational purposes as a condition of development or redevelopment of land in the Town of Caledon. This by-law repeals by-law No. 2022-042. View the by-law at **caledon.ca/bylaw2025-087**.

The basis for this By-law is contained in Staff Report 2025-0597, as received by the Planning and Development Committee on October 21st, 2025 and Council on October 28th, 2025.

All oral and written submission relating to the By-law were considered by Council before this decision was made.

Take notice that an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal in respect to all or part of this By-law may be made by filing a notice of appeal with the City Clerk either via the Ontario Land Tribunal e-file service (first-time users will need to register for a My Ontario Account) at **olt.gov.on.ca/e-file-service** by selecting **Caledon (Town) - Clerk** as the Approval Authority or by mail to 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon ON L7C 1J6, no later than **4:30 p.m. on December 15th, 2025**. The filing of an appeal after 4:30 p.m., in person or electronically, will be deemed to have been received the next business day. The appeal fee of $1,100 can be paid online through e-file or by certified cheque/money order to the Minister of Finance, Province of Ontario. If you wish to appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) or request a fee reduction for an appeal, forms are available from the OLT website at **www.olt.gov.on.ca**. If the e-file portal is down, you can submit your appeal to planning@caledon.ca.

The Town of Caledon by-law fee for submitting an appeal is $370.00*, which can be paid by cheque made payable to The Corporation of the Town of Caledon. Please note that there is also a fee for cost recovery of preparing the appeal packages for the Ontario Land Tribunal. This portion of the fee is required to be paid upon the Town informing the appellant of such fee.

The appeal form is available from the Ontario Land Tribunal on their website at **olt.gov.on.ca/appeals-process/forms/** or by contacting the Municipal Clerk.

Only the applicant, a specified person, a public body, registered owner of any lands to which the by-law would apply, or the minister, may appeal a by-law to the Ontario Land Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council or, in the opinion of the Ontario Land Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

The new parkland dedication by-law applies to all lands located within the Town of Caledon.

Additional information in respect of this By-law is available for inspection at the Town of Caledon, Planning Department, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., by contacting Michael Hoy, Manager Parks and Natural Heritage, 905-584-2272 x. 4383 or Michael.Hoy@caledon.ca.

DATED at the Town of Caledon
November 25, 2025

Kevin Klingenberg
Municipal Clerk

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

100 Women Who Care Caledon reaches milestone of raising over $200,000 for community

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

100 Women Who Care Caledon (100WWCC) has been meeting since 2017, and since then has made 32 donations to local charities serving the Caledon community, amassing over $200,000 – a milestone the organization recently celebrated.

The 100 Women Who Care motto is "1 Hour, $100 + 100 Women = A Powerful Impact." Each quarterly meeting is only an hour long, each member donates $100, and, as a group, they select a charity of their choice for the quarter to which they donate, resulting in a significant impact.

The first 100 Women Who Care chapter was founded in 2006 in Michigan by Karen Dunigan, who raised over $10,000 for cribs for a charity combating a high infant mortality rate.

The concept came to Canada in 2012, and there are now more than 700 100 Who Care women, men, people, kids and business chapters around the world.

Karen McDonald, co-founding member and Chair of 100WWCC, has been with the Caledon chapter since it began in February of 2017. She says 100WWCC Founder Michele Newton attended a WhoCare meeting at another location and thought it would be a "wonderful thing to have in our community."

For each Caledon meeting, McDonald explains, members nominate a charity that serves Caledon.

"100% of our donations have gone directly to Caledon programs and to the people of Caledon."

During their meetings, three nominated charities make a five-minute presentation, and afterward, the group votes on which charity will receive the donation.

Often, McDonald notes, after learning about the charities and their work, members often donate to multiple charities, even when they're not chosen as the recipient of that quarterly meeting.

"We learn so much about our community just by attending the meetings and hearing what's going on and what sorts of programs. It is a really wonderful way to get in contact with what is out there in our community that you may not necessarily even know."

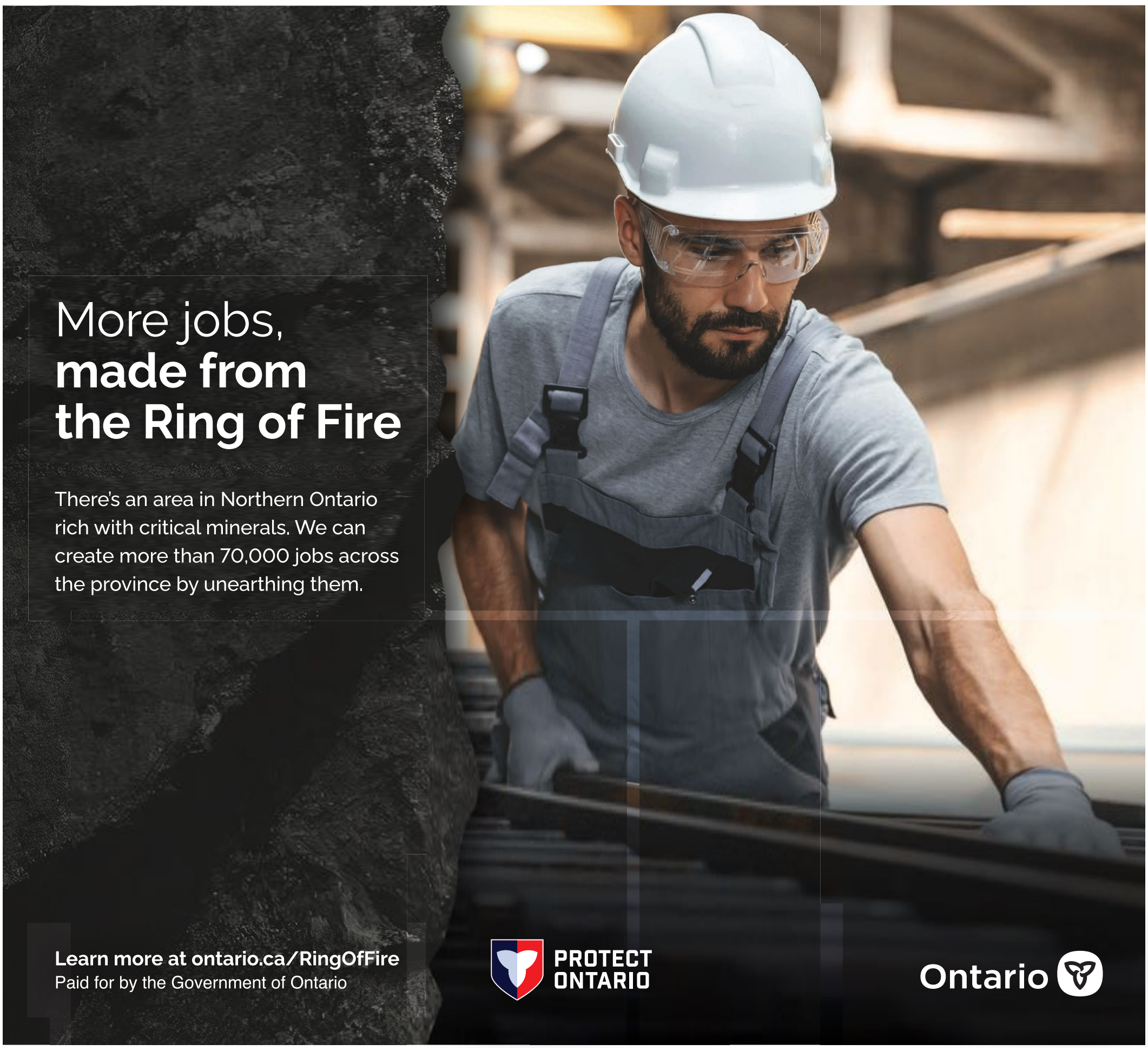
McDonald shares that in each meeting they raise around $6,500.

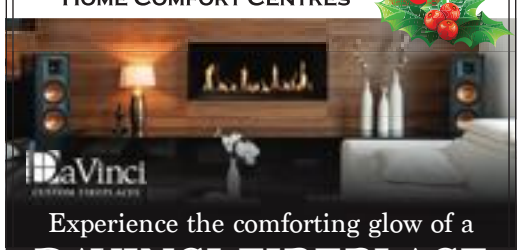
At each of their meetings, there is a presentation by the previous recipient of their donation, during which members have the opportunity to hear how the charity used their donation.

"We have some members that have been with us since Day One and every member, whether they've been with us for a year, or they've been with us for seven years, every member has made a difference, has brought us forward and helped the community."

Continued on Page 9





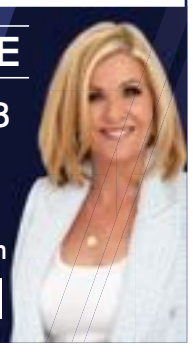
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Council approves step forward to establish framework for stand-alone red light camera program

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Council has approved the Town of Caledon's staff recommendation to establish the framework for a stand-alone Red Light Camera (RLC) program for the municipality.

In May, Staff were directed to prepare a report on red light cameras within the Town of Caledon's jurisdiction, and this Tuesday it was presented to Council.

The report states that there are 71 signalized intersections within the Town of Caledon that are operated and maintained by the Region of Peel.

Of these, 13 fall under the jurisdiction of the Town of Caledon. Staff were asked to investigate whether RLCs are needed at the 13 intersections the Town itself controls.

At this time, Staff reported that RLCs shall not be installed at any of the 13 intersections.

The objective of the RLC program in Ontario is to reduce red light running and severe right-angle collisions, also known as T-bone collisions, at high-risk intersections across the province.

The report shared that there were 27 right-angle collisions out of 81 motor vehicle collisions during a 5-year period spanning 2020 to 2025 at these 13 intersections.

Staff stated that the collisions were "widely distributed" across the 13 intersections, with the highest recorded count at one intersection: seven collisions.

Five intersections reported no right-angle collisions during this time period.

"The findings indicate that the incidence right-angle collision frequencies across these intersections is comparatively low, with no significant collision patterns in any specific direction that would warrant the immediate need for the installation of a red-light camera. Therefore, no RLCs are recommended at this time," stated the report.

Staff prepared the report based on information currently available in the Town's database. They had requested additional collision data from the OPP, which could include incidents not yet recorded in the Town's database, but it was not available in time for the report.

Staff recommended that at this time, RLCs not be installed, and instead, recommended that staff continue to analyze and monitor collision data and trends at the 13 locations and "begin to establish a mechanism under which the Town of Caledon can install red light cameras in the future should they become warranted."

In order to establish a standalone RLC program for the Town of Caledon, several steps will need to be taken to authorize the Town to install cameras and ensure compliance.

In terms of financial implications, Staff report the initial capital cost is estimated to range between $100,000 $130,000 per camera, and covers all one-time expenses required to install

and activate the system, which can vary depending on the complexity.

The annual operating cost per camera is estimated to range between $50,000 and $90,000.

Currently in Ontario, the penalty for running a red light detected by an automated camera is $325; of this, $260 is directed back to the municipality, while $65 is collected by the Province as a victim surcharge and administration fees.

"The municipal share of these fines should be applied toward offsetting RLC and AMPS program expenses, helping to reduce the financial burden on taxpayers," reported Staff.

Amanda Corbett from the Caledon Community Road Safety Advocacy (CCRSA) Group, speaking on the Staff report, said, "We're a little disappointed to see that the recommendation is to not proceed with them [RLCs], but fully understanding that there is a list of criteria to meet."

Corbett said in light of the recent removal of Automated Speed Cameras, and Caledon OPPs recent report regarding a decrease in patrol hours, as well as a decrease in policing of highway traffic act offenses than previous years, "putting that all together, this is making the situation we're in worse, not better."

"I think we need to really figure out what we're going to do as a Town. Given all of those factors, to try and make something better as opposed to things getting worse," says Corbett.

Members of the Council also expressed their concerns.

Councillor Dave Sheen noted that many of the intersections fall within his Ward, some of which did not exist for very long during the study period, and some of which are in areas that were ASEs zones, which may have played a part in these areas being "safer" over the years.

"I always find this confusing that the number of incidents is not high enough, so more people have to get hurt to make it reasonable to get in red light cameras," said Councillor Lynn Kiernan.

During the meeting, Dan Terzievski, Director, Transportation, said there are several reasons to consider bringing an RLC program in-house.

He shares that with development, Caledon is likely to receive more intersections that will fall under their jurisdiction, as well that "with transition, the other 71 intersections that are currently under the jurisdiction of Region of Peel would then potentially transfer to us, and then we would be then responsible for about 90 intersections, and I think some of the intersections that currently may not prioritize or rank as high on a region-wide basis may rank differently from a town of Caledon perspective," says Terzievski.

"The intent of this is to get that framework in place, get all the agreements in place, so that when all that happens, we can basically bring it in-house and make our own decisions."

Councillor Christina Early noted that regarding aggregate hauling, she shares they have seen accidents resulting in death when it comes to red light runners, "I think we've got to push pretty hard to get those red light cameras in place. It is a clear safety issue."

Councillor Doug Maskell raised the question of whether the seven reported right-angle collisions that occurred at a single intersection were close to the threshold to require an RLC, to which Terzievski answered that he suspects it's not.

In regard to the Miovision cameras that the Town of Caledon and the Region of Peel are implementing at various intersections for traffic data collection and management, Councillor Mario Russo asked whether these cameras will be able to be used to continue to analyze and surveillance the intersections.

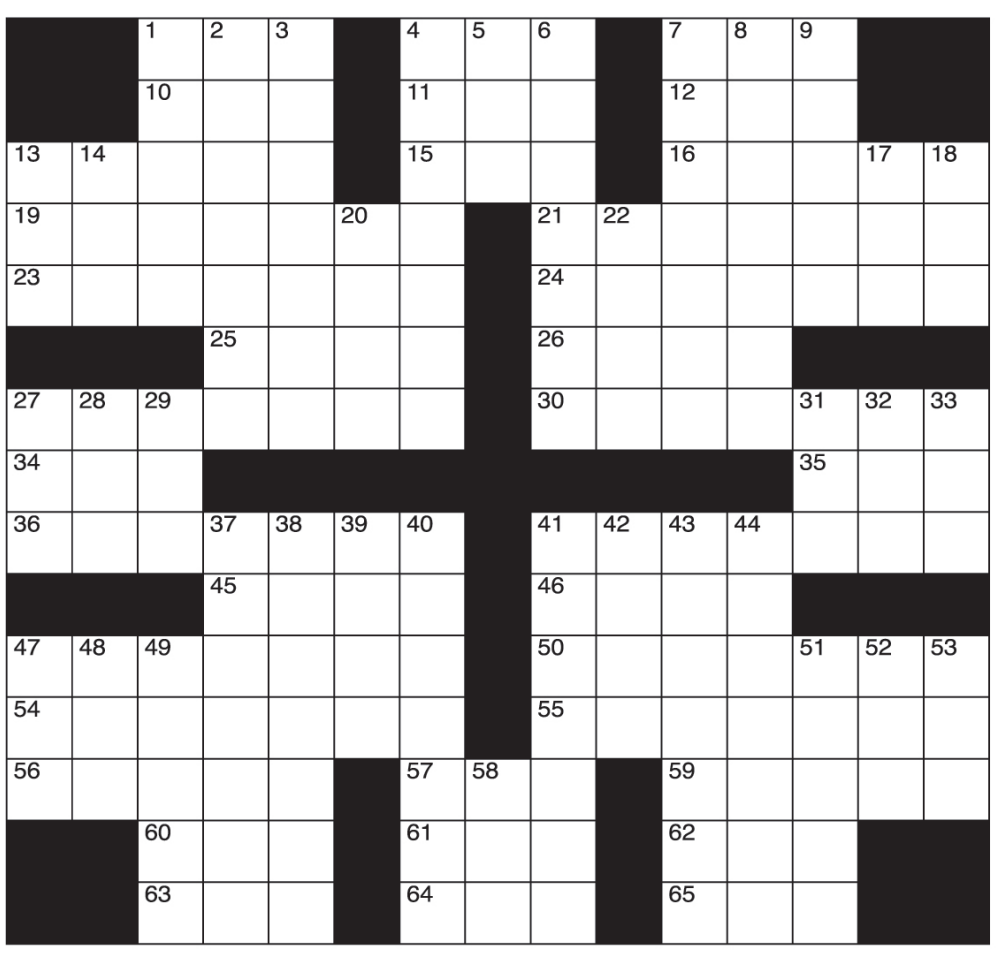
Terzievski responded they can be, as the Region is currently looking at whether they can establish a feature that can also evaluate near misses as well, which can be used in future as a tool to monitor these intersections.

In the end, the motion was moved that Staff be directed to continue reviewing collision and traffic data on an annual basis at intersections under the Town's jurisdiction to monitor and identify any future need for red light cameras at these locations, as well as establish the framework for a stand-alone Red Light Camera (RLC) program for the Town of Caledon.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. American automotive titan
4. Tire term
7. Two-year-old sheep
10. Indigenous people of Thailand
11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group
12. Actress de Armas
13. Not moving
15. Cool!
16. Plants of the arum family
19. Connected with touch
21. Pen stain
23. Monetary units
24. School kids' art project
25. Early Bell Canada executive
26. Sword
27. Hates
30. Fixed in one place
34. Pie _ __ mode
35. Moved swiftly on foot
36. Carrier on vehicle
41. A path to get through
45. "Rule, Britannia" composer
46. Spiritual leader
47. Flowing
50. Respectful compliments
54. Cure
55. Soft, lightweight fabric
56. Building material
57. Japanese delicacy
59. A way to cause to be swollen
60. One and only
61. You might get one in summer
62. Wreath
63. Thus far
64. They __
65. Employee reference number

CLUES DOWN

1. Policemen (French)
2. Toy dog
3. Intestinal condition
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Helps little firms
6. Alphabetical lists
7. Takes down
8. Facilitates
9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia
13. Engine additive
14. Explorers group
17. Written account
18. Consumed
20. Opposite of first
22. No (slang)
27. Government lawyers
28. NY Giants great
29. Small amount
31. A way to save for your future
32. Fall behind
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Head pain
38. Wildly popular sport
39. "Princess Diaries" actress Hathaway
40. Boat race
41. About fish
42. Nursemaid
43. Able to be marketed
44. Not as large
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
48. Paddle
49. Oneness
51. Bitter chemical
52. Not around
53. Very fast airplane
58. Main tributary of the Rhine

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

Kin Club doubles donation to Caledon Community Services food bank to $7,000 amid rising food insecurity



Pictured Left to Right: Joe Luschak, Kin Club of Bolton President, Rose Mazzon from the Kin Club, Caledon Community Services' CEO, Geraldine Aguiar, and Catherine Jackson a CCS Board Member and member of Kin Club of Bolton. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Doubled gift inspired by OPP's Shop with a First Responder event

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Kin Club of Bolton made a $7,000 donation to Caledon Community Services' (CCS) food bank, the Exchange, last week.

The Kin Club originally had planned to donate $3,500 to the Exchange, but what Kin member Santina Berman experienced prompted her to propose an amendment doubling the donation.

On November 30, Kin members attended the "Shop with a First Responder" event, where several children from families experiencing financial difficulties or other personal challenges in Caledon had a morning of shopping, gifts, and food, while building positive relationships with local first responders.

Berman was one of the Kin members in attendance, and while wrapping gifts, she noticed a young girl who had only picked up cat food.

"I noticed that she had some cat food and I said, who's this for?" the young girl then told Berman, "I wish I could buy food, but I had to buy some food for my cat too."

Berman shared the young girl went on to tell her that, often, her mother doesn't eat, so they are able to.

The following week, Berman went to the Kin Club and explained the situation, putting an amendment on the floor to double the amount they were donating to the Exchange.

She says the motion was unanimously passed.

"Everything we do, any funds we raise, are through all kinds of fundraising initiatives that we do to give back to the community and this year, with everything that's going on, and all the food insecurity, actually seeing it with my own eyes and hearing it with my own ears that day was too much. I felt it was very, very important."

"I'm very proud to be a member of the Kin family. I've only been there three years, but I'm very proud to be part of that group because they really do have big hearts. We do it because we know there's a need for it, and do it because we want to help people. At the end of the day, that's what we all need to do."

She says that, especially now, CCS could use the extra money.

"Especially this time of year, and with everything, I think that food insecurity is taking priority."

Berman says seeing that young girl overwhelmed her with emotion, "I was just happy that we were able to double that amount and hopefully help the families in our communities."

"In that moment, to see a child take something that they're supposed to use for themselves to buy toys, and she used it to buy cat food and then say she wished she could have bought food. It just broke my heart."

Berman encourages those to recognize the food insecurity that the Caledon community is facing.

"Food insecurity right now is so real," she says. "But for children, they shouldn't be worrying about food. They shouldn't be worrying about if they're going to have the next meal."

"It's very real, and it's very real here. It's real in Bolton, it's real in Caledon."

Berman says in grocery stores, she's noticing people often putting items back or deciding between them.

"Sometimes we're so busy in life and worrying about all kinds of things, I think a lot of people sometimes forget to really stop and think about it. It's serious, food insecurity, and the lack of people that are going without meals or being able to afford meals. It's heartbreaking."

Berman notes that, going forward, she wants to continue raising these issues of food insecurity.

"Seeing this now is just going to make me work harder and focus more on trying to come up with more fundraising initiatives for our club to see if we can continue to raise money for food," says Berman.

Joe Luschak, Kin Club of Bolton President, says that the Exchange was thrilled to receive their donation, and the Kin Club felt great to be able to help them in these times.

Berman encourages those in the community to pick up a food bank donation bag next time they're grocery shopping, or even gather a bag of donations themselves, and urges them to accept that "we have to help in any way we can."

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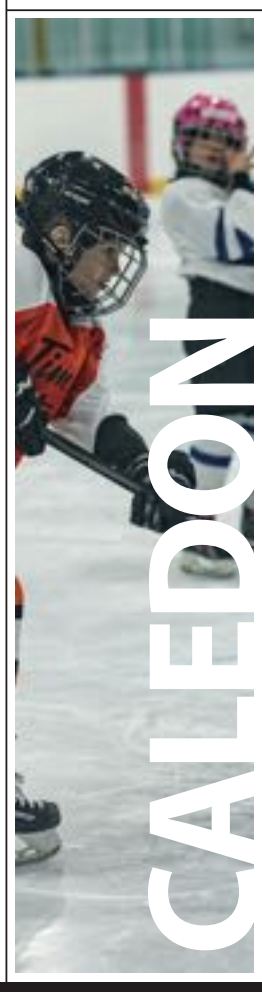
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Bolton Welcomes Santa Claus

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

This past weekend marked the 52nd year of the Bolton Kin Clubs' Annual Santa Claus Parade.

This year it was all about the Caledon Community, as the parade line up featured numerous local schools, sports clubs, businesses, and bands.

For an hour before the parade, families and onlookers lined the streets of Downtown Bolton, securing their spot to get the best view of the parade soon to come.

Helping residents stay warm and fed was SGL Charitable Society, who was set up on the side of the road to hand out free coffee, samosas, and hot chocolate.

Satwinder Singh Multani, a director at SGL Charitable Society, shares that every year they participate in the parade, donate to help fund the bands, and hand out free refreshments to parade goers.

As the parade was running, SGL could also be seen running into the street to hand out hot drinks to those walking, or driving, in the parade.


Kicking off the 11 bands featured in this year's parade was the Father Bressani High School Eagles Marching Band.



The Bolton Kin welcomed those to the parade shortly after with their own banner and flags.



Cassie's Place


Caledon Cavaliers Rugby Club tossed around the ball as they made their way through the parade.


Mayor Groves welcomes parade-goers.


The Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association stops to say hi!



Ontario Queen of the Furrow Victoria Kolb.



Robert F. Hall High School Football show off their recent achievements as Metro Bowl Champions.





(Left) A crowd gathers around for the ceremony. (Right) Mayfield Secondary School's Jazz Studies Chorus. PHOTOS BY RILEY MURPHY

A Supermoon, a cold night, and warm hearts at Bethell Hospice's annual Tree Lighting

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Bethell Hospice was lit up this past Thursday not just with the annual tree lighting ceremony or this year's Winter Supermoon, but with the light of those in remembrance.

The Bethell Hospice Foundation recently held its annual Celebrate Light and Love Tree Lighting Ceremony. Despite the less-than-ideal minus-ten conditions, the community showed up in full force.

"The polar vortex brought some problems, but it also brought a beautiful full moon and a clear night," shared Bethell Hospice Foundation Board co-chair Adrian Horwood.

The celebration was illuminated by the last Supermoon of 2025.

First gathering in the Caledon Public Library's Inglewood Branch, attendees of the event were welcomed in with the voices of Mayfield Secondary School's Jazz Studies Chorus singing Christmas classics such as Carol of the Bells.

After their performance, the choir led the way to Bethell Hospice, as each person was given a candle to light their path.

Upon arrival, attendees were invited to either hold onto their candles or place them at the base of the soon-to-be-lit tree.

Stan Cameron, Caledon's Peel District School Board Trustee, welcomed everyone to the Hospice.

Cameron has been a volunteer with Bethell Hospice for 13 years and read the names of those in remembrance that night.

Lighting this year's tree was Clarissa Martin, a member of the Bethell Hospice Care Team.

Martin is a personal support worker who recently won the Dr. Joan Lesmond Bursary Award, which reflects a commitment to lifelong learning, mentorship, and community-based quality of care.

After Martin had the honour of lighting this year's tree, Bethell Hospice's Medical Director, Dr. Michael Gagnon, read aloud "We Speak Your Name", a poem that has been rooted in Bethell Hospice's Light and Love Celebration since volunteer Jake McArthur originally wrote the piece in 2010.

"We speak your name. Not for the last, but for this day. And feel connected when we hear our voices say your name," closed Gagnon, as Cameron began to read more than 380 names.

When Cameron read each name aloud, the name was repeated back to him by the crowd.

Horwood explains that this day is extremely important to him.

"I have been coming here for six years now since my late wife passed, and I find the tree lighting and the remembrance of our loved ones to be special," he says. "I don't have the words for it."

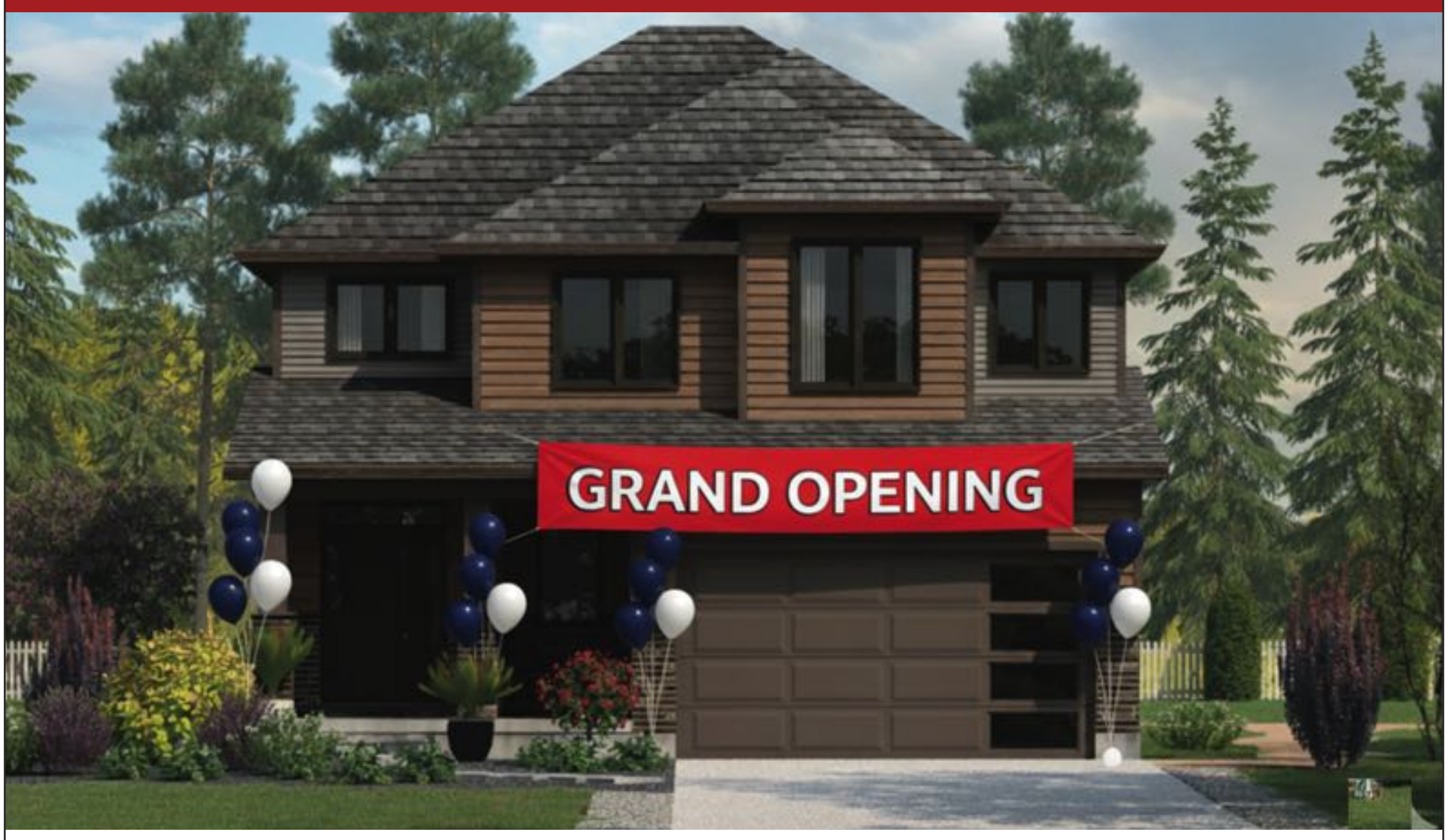
"Each one of us has been given a gift of light in memory or in honor of someone special, and we are really all honored and privileged to be able to remember so many loved ones and to do it together in community," says Horwood.

Light and Love is also a key fundraising event for Bethell Hospice in their journey to raise $1.8 million each year to keep their services entirely free and continue offering them to residents and families.

Bethell Hospice raised $150,000 through this year's fundraiser.

Afterwards, attendees were invited to lay their candles at the base of the tree and join together once again for refreshments at the Inglewood library branch.

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BUSINESS

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From Family Kitchen to Community Favourite: La Focaccia opens in Bolton

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



(Left to Right) Jonathon and Stefan Cambouris.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

In an unassuming area of Bolton on Healey Road, those walking past detect notes of freshly baked bread coming out of one of the storefronts.

This new Italian shop, La Focaccia, belongs to brothers Jonathon and Stefan Cambouris, and is slowly becoming one of Bolton's new sandwich staples.

Their menu features homemade focaccias, house-made pesto, and various flavours of mortadella, Stracciatella, and basil.

Jonathon has grown up cooking his entire life, perfecting pizza and sourdough for the past ten years.

His brother, Stefan, shares that watching Jonathon cook is the epitome of seeing someone in their element, noting that Jonathon is the "mastermind" behind their recipes.

The pair grew up in Bolton, and, as kids, they shared that there was always cooking in their house.

During COVID, while the brothers ran their meal prep company, Jonathon began selling loaves of sourdough and focaccia, and everyone in his life pushed him to open his own store.

"I was always a little skeptical and my mom and my brother said, 'you need to do this,'" says Jonathon.

When they first opened on October 6, he says they had only one thing in mind: perfection.

"I wanted it to be consistent, every time you come in craving this sandwich, you're getting exactly what you wanted," says Jonathon.

Sometimes, he shares that he's up all night making focaccia for their business.

The menu is filled with both his own favourites and classic Italian favourites inspired by trips to Italy.

The business currently operates out of its industrial kitchen, where customers can place an order for pickup or delivery.

The two shared it's taken off completely through their social media and word of mouth.

Jonathon adds the speed at which their business has taken off is "overwhelming," and they've received immense support from the community.

He says he hopes every time someone walks away with one of their sandwiches, it's the "best sandwich they've ever had."

The two look forward to growing the business over time, selling their loaves and sauces and expanding their menu with specials.

Also expanding in size, Jonathan adds, as they hope to grow to a storefront one day while remaining in the community.

"We grew up our whole lives here," says Stefan. "We'd rather be here, too, for the rest of all this."

The store is located at 9-365 Healey Rd, Bolton, and their menu is posted on social media at lafocacciasandwiches.

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Catering Menu

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Rigatoni w/ Creamy Pistacchio Pesto	1/2 Tray $80 • Full Tray $140
Lasagna	1/2 Tray $70 • Full Tray $130
Italian Classic or Prosciutto Supreme	10-15 People • $120
Mortadella	10-15 People • $100
Prosciutto e Rucola or Sole e Creme	10-15 People • $110
Assorted Tray	10-15 People • $120
Mini Vodka Parm Panuozzo (15 Sandwiches)	10-15 People • $125
Mini Meatball Panuozzo (15 Sandwiches)	10-15 People • $130
Mini Porchetta Panuozzo or Focaccia (15 Sandwiches)	10-15 People • $130
Sicilian Arancini (Meat or Spinach and Cheese)	$6 Each • 12 for $65
Roman Suppli Pomodoro	$6 Each • 12 for $65
Roasted Potatoes	1/2 Tray $55 • Full Tray $100
Salad w/ house italian dressing	1/2 Tray $50 • Full Tray $100

365 HEALEY ROAD, UNIT 9, BOLTON
437-453-5338 • lafocacciainc@gmail.com

Headwaters Health Care Foundation raises record-breaking total on Giving Tuesday

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Giving Tuesday encouraged donations to the many not-for-profits and charities that support the fabric of communities around the world on December 2.

Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF) achieved unprecedented success on Giving Tuesday, raising $143,882. With support from its matching gift sponsor, the Steve and Sandra Hartman Charitable Family Foundation, this amount doubles to $287,764.

This marks HHCF's most successful Giving Tuesday to date.

"This achievement speaks volumes to the generosity and compassion of the people in our community," said K.C. Carruthers, CEO of HHCF.

"Every dollar donated helps us ensure that Headwaters Health Care Centre has the resources it needs to provide exceptional care close to home. We are deeply grateful to all of our donors and to the Steve and Sandra Hartman Charitable Family Foundation for their incredible commitment to local health care."

Giving Tuesday occurs on the Tuesday following Black Friday and Cyber Monday each year.

It's meant to balance the consumerism of these two days by encouraging people to support charities in their communities.

"Giving Tuesday is a global movement that inspires generosity and community spirit. At Headwaters Health Care Foundation, these contributions directly support vital equipment that enhance patient care for thousands of individuals across our region," reads a press release from HHCF.

In addition to HHCF's fundraising record, nationally, the most was raised this year.

Canada Helps reported raising a record $16.8 million for 10,422 charities this year.

Last year, $16.2 million was raised.

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.*

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
Humber River Centre
Ann Street, Bolton
Saturday December 13th 7:00 pm
All are welcome – free entry

Donations to the Exchange Food Bank will be accepted

Do you need support? You are not alone. **If someone's drinking or other addictions** are affecting YOU, the Bolton Al-Anon Family Group can help! Please join us at our **regular** meeting time, for understanding, support and fellowship, in a safe & welcoming space. We've been where you are. We understand - you don't have to do this alone. Meetings are held every **Tuesday evening** at 8:00 p.m. at Bolton United Church, 8 Nancy Street, Bolton. If you need further information, please e-mail us at boltonalanon@gmail.com.

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Caledon Fire and Emergency Services take a break to have a photo with Santa.
PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Raeburn's Corner alight once again as Caledon Village hosts annual Christmas Tree Lighting

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Nestled in between Highway 10 and Charleston Sideroad last Saturday was a night full of whimsy and wonder as Caledon Village held their annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Raeburn's Corner, complete with entertainment, drinks, raffles, and more fun festivities.

The night, presented by the Caledon Village Association (CVA), also featured community groups such as Caledon Fire and Emergency Services, Caledon OPP, the Caledon Lions Club, and a very special guest.

Santa Claus made his way to Caledon Village and stayed for the tree lighting, asking all those who attended what they would like for Christmas.

He wasn't the only one bringing gifts that night.

The Optimist Club provided hot dogs, chili was brought by CVA, and Spirit Tree Cidery provided cider for all those in attendance.

The tree lighting was kicked off by Caledon's Town Crier, who shared that Christmas has been celebrated in Caledon Village for over 200 years.

"Tonight, as always, the Caledon Village Association welcomes everyone from everywhere, no matter how you celebrate the season," he rang out.

"Each Christmas, light represents a small act of kindness, a gift to someone in need, a triumph over the darkness of want that surrounds us every day, if we open our eyes to see beyond our own abundance. These lights also represent the many volunteers from the Caledon Village Association, Caledon Optimists, Lions Club, Knox United Church, Caledon Central School, James Dick, and the supportive staff from the Town of Caledon, Caledon Fire and Emergency Services, and Caledon OPP who work so hard to put this event together every year."

After the tree was illuminated, all those invited inside for a night of entertainment and carol singing could be seen gathered together, people of all ages.

Santa remained at his post, on a bench at Raeburn's adorned in many blankets.

He shared that he met "lots" of kids that day, many of whom were in their first year of life.

But the night wasn't over for him, as he shared he had many more stops to make.

"I go all over!" he remarked, certainly similar to a night soon to come.

Gifts brought to the event weren't only for the young children there; CVA was also running a toy and food drive.

Across the table were many pre-packaged goods provided by the community, and toys for those in need, featuring Harry Potter games and squishmallows.

Kids in attendance certainly didn't leave empty-handed, as children's raffles and loot bags were conducted, closing out the night of holiday high spirits.

100 Women Caledon marks milestone

Continued from Page 3

"We're just grateful for any members, past or present and future," says McDonald.

Members can join the group individually or as a team. Instead of donating $100 every time 100WWCC meets, in a group of four, for example, each person is responsible for one donation per year.

100WWCC also aims to make its meetings accessible in various ways, including moving its meeting locations throughout Caledon.

She shares that one of their locations, the Caledon Ski Club, has been a supporter since the beginning, and it is where they hold their September meetings.

"For the first four years, we went there exclusively. But then we discovered, it's really tough for people in Bolton to make their way all the way over toward Belfountain, so we moved our meetings," explains McDonald. "We have one in the east, one in the west, and two central, so that it makes it more accessible for members to attend the meetings."

Over the years, 100WWCC, a 100% volunteer organization, has donated to numerous local charities, including Caledon Meals on Wheels, Special Olympics Caledon, the Milo Foundation, and more.

As 100WWCC looks ahead to future years and celebrates more milestones, they look forward to welcoming new members and continuing to support the Caledon community.

"We're just going to keep marching on and continue to raise money for charities. Hopefully we'll get to $300,000 and, beyond that, we're just going to continue doing what we're doing," says McDonald.

"The impact can be a complete windfall for the charity. They don't necessarily know that this is coming, and when they get it, it's a wonderful opportunity for them to sort of pivot with their budgets as well. We all just want to make our community the best it can be."

Their next meeting will be held on February 27, 2026, when their most recent recipient, Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club, will present on the impact of 100WWCC's donation.

Edward Jones



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Don't be a d--- this holiday season. On second thought...

The holiday rush is in full swing.

For some people, it can be a time of rush about to get everything checked off your Christmas buying list before the crowds in the stores get too bad.

For others, it's an early rush to get your turkey, ham, all the associated trimmings, or whatever your traditional holiday fare might be, before our stores are overwhelmed and their shelves understocked.

For others still, it's a time of doing some mental gymnastics trying to figure out how to get everywhere you need to be this holiday season, celebrating with the people you need to celebrate with, all without making it seem like…well, a rush.

In short, it's the rushing season – and it's important to make the most out of the eyes of the storm when you find them; otherwise, you risk the stressors overtaking you and becoming a d--- to all those around you. And who wants that?

You have to find our oases of calm wherever you can at this time of year and, for me, finding those pockets of serenity amid the sometimes-manufactured mayhem is one of the very things that puts me in the spirit of the season. More often than not, those quiet corners can often be found in a favourite holiday movie.

I know, this is hardly a ground-breaking observation, but we don't always need to break new ground in December; in fact, it's so often a matter of the tried, true, and indeed loved.

We all have our favourite films that put us in the yuletide mood, whether they're traditionally thought of as "seasonal" or not.

"Meet Me in St. Louis", for instance, is considered a Christmas classic for many reasons, not the least of which is Judy Garland's iconic rendition of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", but that's only one small scene in a much longer slice-of-life movie that covers several seasons.

Our own favourites these days are probably most often watched at home with our loved ones, or even by ourselves, and we all derive some degree of comfort from it. At the same time, how wonderful it is to have the chance to watch a classic or two with others, even strangers, in a communal atmosphere?

As Christmas activities abound in our respective communities, I've been heartened to see a rise in the number of film screenings that have been included in the festivities.

Aurora, for instance, just wrapped its two-weekend Christmas market at Aurora Town Square and, as part of the action, market-goers had the opportunity to enjoy not one but two holiday classics with their neighbours: "Home Alone" and "Elf."

As someone who saw "Home Alone" in theatres when it was first released, it was clear at the time it was destined to be a classic, and it now has nostalgia on its side. How lucky for those of my generation to be able to share the big screen experience with the up-and-coming generation, particularly those for whom it will be a first viewing.

A lot of memories were made and I'd wager those kids who saw it for the first time this month will jump at the chance to do the same thing with their own kids when the time comes.

Here's to holiday traditions old and new!

Another favourite around this time of year is "The Sound of Music" which, despite how often we continue to sing about Maria's favourite things at this time of year, whether or not we share her own Top 10 List, is a Christmas-free movie that has become inextricably linked with season.

I'm not going to object. In fact, one of my favourite Christmas memories of the last decade was a gathering of university friends at a traditional British-style pub in Toronto's east end, organized with the expressed purpose of attending a "Sound of Music" sing-a-long over a nice roast beef dinner.

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes would have blanched at the very idea of singing at full tilt, between mouthfuls of mashed potatoes and Yorkshire pudding, but a good time was had by all!

And we're set to have a good time again this weekend, albeit without a roast to enjoy, taking in another non-holiday Holiday Classic: a sing-a-long "Mary Poppins".

Again, this is not something I'm going to object to; there's a very good reason for us to make the trek to the TIFF Bell Lightbox – to celebrate the 100th birthday of the film's star, Dick Van Dyke.

Now, I've never met the man personally, but I see that as no barrier to making the most of the occasion – he's a man in which we can all find inspiration.

While I've never met him, I did catch an extended glimpse of him a couple of years ago in Los Angeles when he was a tender 98-year-old. The occasion was to celebrate the opening of a photography exhibition of a dear friend of mine who, in the last decade or so, has happened to be Van Dyke's official photographer.

She has a unique knack for capturing all that is magical about this centenarian and that was evident for all to see – including the subject, who attended the opening and spent nearly an hour on stage answering questions about his career, as well as their collaborative relationship.

The images were certainly striking, but every photo was underscored by the joy and vitality that was up there on the stage, a joy and vitality that was fuelled by curiosity, love, and even his complete inability to stay still.

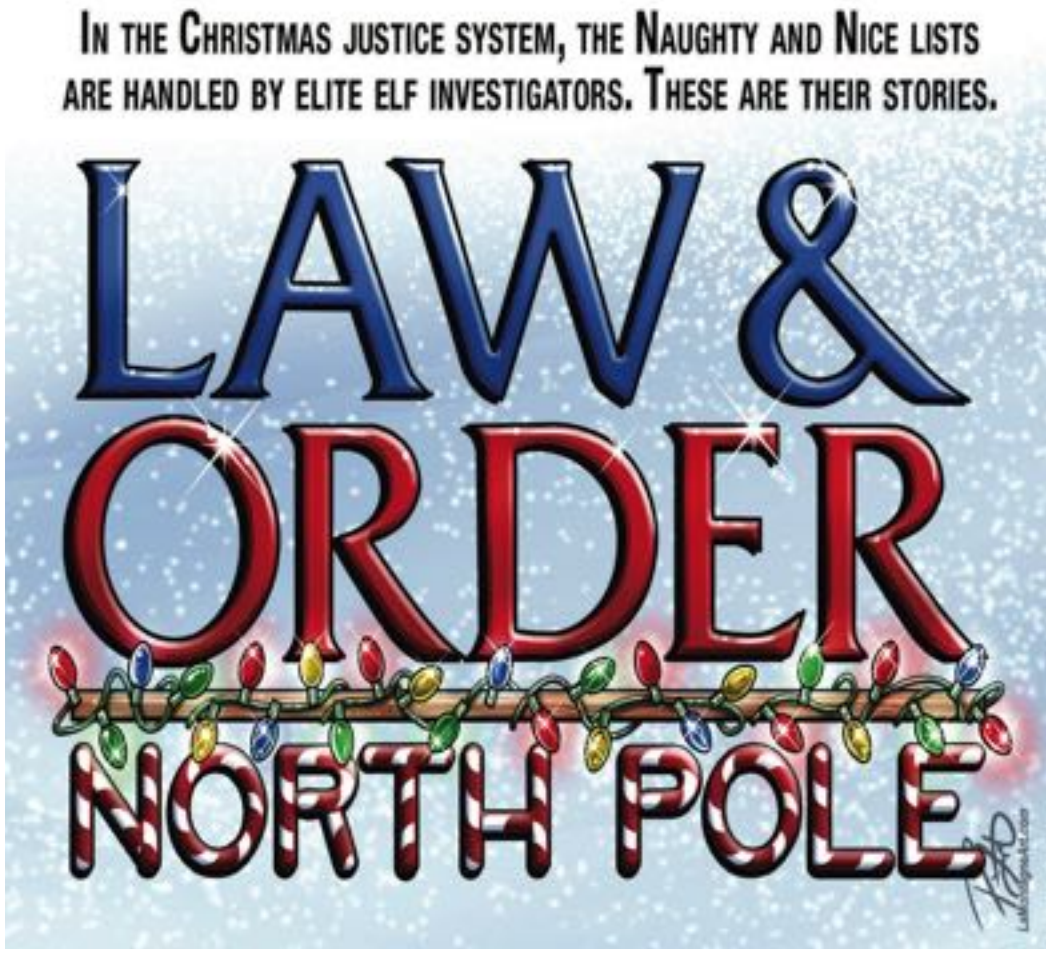
In the lead up to his remarkable milestone, which will take place on Saturday, he shared a few words of wisdom with People Magazine.

"People say, 'What did you do right?' I don't know. I'm rather lazy. I've always thought that anger is one thing that eats up a person's insides – and hate. And I never really was able to work up a feeling of hate. I think that is one of the chief things that kept me going. There were things I didn't like, people I don't like and disapprove of, but I never really was able to do a white heat kind of hate.

"What I left in the way of children's entertainment and children's music – that's my legacy. I don't think remembering me is all that important. But it's the music, the music we leave behind. For as long as children are proudly belting out their new word, 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious' or skipping along to 'Chim Chim Cher-ee,' the most important part of me will always be alive."

Dick Van Dyke might not have all that much to do with the Christmas season – Halloween, by his own admission, is much more his holiday of choice – but, as the stressors that come along with the season come at us fast and furious, we would all do well to consider the words he's given us in the lead-up to his milestone and embrace the fact that, inspired by him, sometimes it's okay to be a Dick!

Here's to Mr. Van Dyke, everything he represents, and the season of our lives he's inextricably become a part of!



Breaking bread takes on a whole new meaning

by Mark Pavilons



God moves in mysterious ways.

Even the non-religious types in our midst utter this phrase from time to time.

I was reminded of this, and one other indisputable fact – I am not alone.

A very nice King couple – Roger and Irene – treated me to a fabulous lunch, simply because they wanted to meet the person who writes about life, and is welcomed into their home every week, via the newspaper.

While they had a sense of who I was from reading my columns, they wanted to see what I was really like.

We got along like ham and cheese, or in this case, the ingredients of a great meal prepared by the chef at Iago Restaurant at Eagle Nest Golf Club.

Our discussion ran the gamut of our working lives, experiences, beliefs, and how we embrace Christian values. It had nothing to do with accomplishments, accolades or riches.

It was about wealth of a different kind. I was reminded that I'm not alone – not in the world, and not in my current struggle with cancer. I am thought of, prayed for and warmly regarded.

These are not things given out like candy, but rather one has to work to earn such love.

And yes, we are loved – each and every one of us.

We are not "islands," living within marble walls and infinity pools. We are not braggarts, or self-absorbed tech giants.

We are average people, who strive to do better, be better, and share more.

The more you get to know someone, the more you realize we are more alike than we know. We share common concerns, ethics, morals and family responsibilities. Interesting, since we all come from such varied backgrounds and professions.

I'm no professional golfer, yet I understood Roger's passion. I'm horrible with numbers and insurance documents, yet I admired Irene's love of her various roles. I hope they learned something about me as well.

When you sit and chat – I mean really talk and listen – you get so much out of it. You connect and you feel the hearts of others.

Meeting relative strangers always comes with a bit of apprehension but when we sat down, it was like we've known each for years.

Again, that comes with a genuine openness, a willingness to listen and really hear. It comes with age and wisdom.

We could have sat and chatted all day long.

I was given much more than a bountiful meal. It was breaking bread in the true sense of the phrase.

I have been to countless work-related business lunches, the bulk of which are filled with superficial anecdotes and pleasantries.

This was different. It was a sort of min-Thanksgiving dinner, if you will. It made me feel blessed.

On my way back to the office, I couldn't help but feel "lighter," a bit uplifted. It was something I haven't felt in a very long time. All because a couple of people took the time to be gracious. Imagine what we could accomplish if we all thought, and acted that way.

I through my routine, working from day to day. I create, write and put together a "product" that I hope residents enjoy. Maybe they learn something, and perhaps they're more informed about the goings on in King and beyond.

In my column I am quite open and present my thoughts and feelings for all to read. It has served me well over the years, and more recently, offers a great way for me to vent, and release some of that pent-up dismay.

I never really think about the impact of my words, even though some of my faithful readers have said I am a talented writer. What you see is what you get.

I write openly because I believe we are all similar and we're all connected in this huge, magical universe. None of us are here by accident and we all have a purpose. We should all be one another's cheerleaders, mentors, sounding boards and, yes, friends.

Again, we are not living in bubbles, consumed by our trials and tribulations. Well, of course, they do sneak in from time to time. But stoking the embers of one another's hearts is key. That's our job as spouses and parents. That's our job as good people.

We don't abandon our kids, our work commitments or ties simply because life is too much for us to handle. We don't give up easily, in the face of insurmountable odds.

Our resilience is a key aspect of our species, one that likely sets us apart from all other living things in the universe.

I don't know what's in store for me. I don't know what everyone else has on their plate, either.

But what I know is that sharing – extending a hand in peace and gratitude – goes a very long way.

That's why we gather – in church, in service clubs, in government and on council. We do this because we care about our fellow citizens and our community.

While we tend to think of our community as our village or subdivision, it's much more. It's literally everywhere, at least within driving distance!

We are much more. We are greater than ourselves, and part of the bigger miracle that is existence.

We often don't show it, as we trudge along, head-down, through the mud we've created in our lives. We gripe and complain, even criticize things we don't fully understand.

I don't get the soaring cost of living, house prices, Russian imperialism or bloodshed in the Middle East.

I get people, well most of them, anyway.

And I do appreciate goodwill, courtesy, kindness and an open heart.

I hope you do, too.

Our Readers Write

Nothing "gentle" about Strong Mayor powers: reader

(Re: Gentle Density CIP Area Designation bylaw returns to Council, November 27)

It appears there is nothing "gentle" about the use of Strong Mayor Powers.

A By-law, the erroneously named Gentle Density Community Improvement Plan Area Designation, that was previously democratically defeated in October by Council, gets returned to the floor in November. Using the very undemocratic Strong Mayor Powers, the By-law is passed this time by a vote of 5 to 3. We don't even have to ask for the names anymore. The same five who vote for developer fueled growth, and the same three who vote for their constituents.

There is nothing gentle about the density of Strong Mayor decision making on our Town Council.

SKID CREASE
BOLTON

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SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



Mixed Messages

You'd be forgiven for wondering about some of the messaging coming out of Town Hall lately. I'm not sure if the sheer volume of messaging is meant to bewilder, bore or benefit us? In pumping out volumes of information seemingly all at one time, it makes it hard for residents to keep up and/or to be able to separate the wheat from the chaff. Occasionally, the "whereas" legalese statements confuse the messaging, not just for us "average citizens" but even, apparently, some Councillors too. It's easy to lose sight of any positives (if indeed there are any) and to question the veracity of it all. There's been a lot of mixed messages coming out of Town Hall lately and I don't know about you, but I'm feeling a bit baffled.

Let's start with the birds. Yes, birds. Recent announcements leave one wondering, is Caledon for the birds or against the birds? It seems to depend on the kind of bird we're talking about. Trumpeter swans, for example, still considered a species at risk in some areas, and who currently occupy Swan Lake, are not a bird that at least five members of Council care about. Their future hangs in the balance as various studies are done that will inform Council's decision whether to destroy the fully rehabilitated land the swans call home. It's not looking good. The Mayor's previously referenced "prominent developer" (Nick Cortellucci) has turned down a legitimate market value offer by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority to purchase and further preserve the property at 0 Shaws Creek Rd. protecting it (and the Swans) from construction garbage. It's looking like protecting birds in Caledon just isn't all that important.

Or is it? While the battle of Swan Lake continues, the Town of Caledon recently launched a campaign lauding its own efforts to protect birds and imploring Caledon residents to be a part of it.

Here's what happened in case you missed it. The announcement featured a great close up of a blue jay with a headline reading, "We're stepping up to protect birds and their habitat. If you care about wildlife, join the Caledon Bird Team and help us make a difference." It went on to say interested residents should apply to be a part of the team at "caledon.ca/birdfriendly." Really? Bird friendly? To which birds? Caledon apparently feels "called to action" because bird populations have dropped more than 25% across North America. Might I point out the obvious? It's probably because we are paving over, dumping garbage in, and cutting down their natural habitats with wild abandon.

One last ironic statement on the environment adds to the confusion about Caledon's position on the birds. As we were writing this column, the Town proudly put out yet another announcement concerning their efforts at keeping Caledon green.

"Enhancing urban green spaces and tree canopy in Caledon is one way we're prioritizing your health and well-being" the Town notes it is promoting "green infrastructure" which will help to improve air quality, support physical and mental health and protect both biodiversity and create habitat for pollinators. That's a whole lot of green promises and they sound wonderful. Almost too good to be true.

In other news, which frankly probably demands an entirely separate column, the Town recently approved CCTV-type cameras coming soon to a location near you. No doubt the implementation of such a program sparks debate amongst those who agree public surveillance serves the greater good and those who see it as an infringement on their rights so I won't debate that here today. Rather, the announcement itself is yet another example of the kind of mixed messaging coming from the Town at a furious pace.

The cameras have already been approved. How many you might ask? It depends on who you are asking. A news release on the Town's website said "42 closed circuit television cameras installed in Caledon, in what Mayor Groves described as "select public locations." However, in an OPP presentation to Council, the number was described as "78 high-tech CCTV cameras installed across 42 locations." Perhaps you are thinking to yourself, "Ok, this is just an honest mistake, a confusion of the specific details." and perhaps you're right. But when Council is voting on anything, shouldn't clarity, and the facts, matter? When further, the Town puts out messaging lauding their own efforts, shouldn't the picture of just how many cameras, and where they are located, be crystal clear?

All we are asking for is clarity.

With the budget pegged at a 4% tax increase impacting us residents, it's reasonable to expect that those in charge of voting on - and implementing - new incentives that cost significant sums of money, know exactly what they are voting and spending that money on. As to who has access to the footage, that, according to the Mayor "only records car number plates not faces and private property," another fact in dispute, don't even get me started.

What are the cameras actually recording and who gets to see the footage are also in dispute. Is it soon-to-be-hired Town security staff or the OPP? Is it plates only, or more? These are reasonable questions that should be easily answered. And, when the Town claims it's green, environmentally responsible and "for the birds," it's reasonable to ask if that means ALL birds, including Trumpeter Swans, or just some birds? Otherwise, you might be forgiven for thinking the Town is kind of flipping residents "the bird" instead of providing real and tangible, credible messaging about what's happening in Caledon and at Council.

MAYOR ANNETTE GROVES
MAYOR GROVES' COLUMN



Caledon's Amended 2026 Budget: Supporting Growth, Infrastructure, and Community Safety

The amended 2026 Budget reflects what we've heard from our residents. It has been carefully shaped to set a clear path for a sustainable future—one that balances Caledon's growth with responsible financial planning, while investing in the infrastructure, services, and programs that matter most to the people who live here.

To meet these priorities, the Town of Caledon has updated its 2026 Budget to include a 2.27% property tax increase and a 1% infrastructure levy. These measures will help maintain essential services, support our growth targets, and ensure our infrastructure continues to serve the community well into the future.

This amended budget positions Caledon to manage growth responsibly while maintaining strong financial health. Every investment is made with the goals of efficiency, accountability, and delivering value to residents. Together, these efforts help ensure Caledon continues to thrive—today and for years to come.

Smart Growth for a Sustainable Future

The amended $257 million budget includes a $168 million operating budget and an $89 million capital budget. The total 3.27% tax increase is made up of:

2.27% Property Tax Increase: Supporting operating costs and helping ensure that essential services continue to meet the needs of our growing community.

1% Annual Infrastructure Levy: Dedicated funding to maintain and improve the Town's assets and support future growth.

Operating Budget ($168M)

Our operating budget focuses on the day-to-day programs and services that help make Caledon a safe, active, and connected community, including:

- Community Safety: Continued investment in Municipal Law Enforcement and Fire & Emergency Services.
- Parks, Recreation and Culture: Support for recreation programs, cultural initiatives, and community events that bring us together.
- Road Operations and Maintenance: Enhancements to snow clearing, road repairs, and traffic safety.

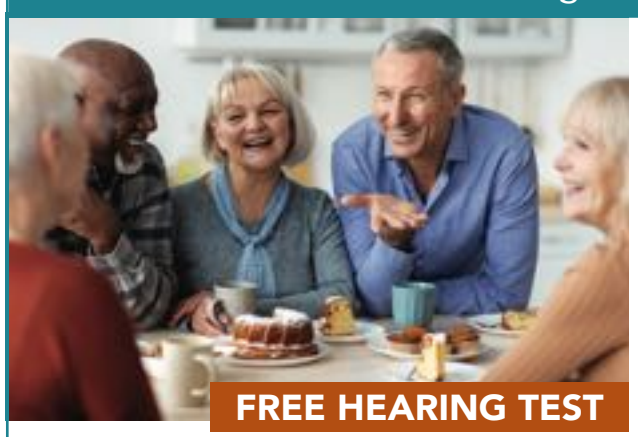
Capital Budget ($89M)

The capital budget builds and maintains the infrastructure our community relies on, with investments that prepare us for the future:

- Transportation and Roads: Rehabilitation projects, active transportation improvements, and updated traffic management systems.
- Fire Services: New vehicles and equipment to support reliable emergency response.
- Recreation Facilities: Upgrades to community centres, including improvements at the Caledon Centre for Recreation & Wellness.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to my colleagues on Council and Town staff for their dedication and hard work throughout this budget process. Their commitment to delivering high-quality services and planning for Caledon's future is evident in every aspect of this budget. The result is a plan that strengthens our community, supporting the services and infrastructure residents depend on while moving Caledon towards a smart, sustainable growth.

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TOWN OF CALEDON

ARTS & CULTURE

A father's dedicated practice routine helps Caledon son with autism find his voice

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



Anoop and Sahil.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

25-year-old Caledon resident Sahil Prashar cannot read or write, but he can sing over 100 songs in several languages.

When Sahil was very young, he was diagnosed with autism, and he wasn't able to communicate with his family. As he was growing up, his father, Anoop Prashar, always played music, whether they were in the car, at home, or out and about.

"One day I had an MP3 player and I was just fooling around with it. I was listening to something and I put it on my son's ear, and for the first time, he said one line of it," says Anoop.

"That was kind of a eureka moment."

From there, Sahil began behaving better in school and communicating once they began incorporating music into his life, he says.

Then, when Sahil was seven, the school he attended had him sing the national anthem with the school band.

Anoop, who has a background in sports and martial arts, shares that he was very familiar with the fundamentals of practicing and working out, and decided to apply that to Sahil and his newfound love for singing

From that day, he decided he wanted Sahil to begin practicing seriously.

He moved him, his wife, and Sahil to a bigger house in Caledon Village, where Sahil would have more space. Once they moved, he set up a sound system with a stage and bought a karaoke system with a $2 microphone.

Anoop explains that Sahil would sit and sing the same song 20 times without getting tired.

"I knew he could memorize songs, but I didn't know at the time he had a powerful photographic memory."

He explains that Sahil was memorizing the repetitions and patterns in each song and utilizing them the next time he sang it.

Anoop used to write down every song Sahil sang, but now he says it's gone into the hundreds; "it's too much, we threw the books away. Now, we just wing it every day."

"This whole thing started 15 years ago, his routine, this is his therapy because he doesn't go to college," Anoop continues. "He doesn't have one friend in the world, he was left alone. I'm his friend."

A few years ago, Anoop quit his job to take care of Sahil full-time. His wife works with the local school board with children with disabilities.

Now, eight hours a day, Anoop practices with Sahil, whether it's vocal training, singing, or their daily concerts, just the two of them.

Anoop shares that Sahil covers 40 different artists in languages ranging from English, Punjabi, Hindi, and even a song in Japanese.

"He is fascinated by Elvis and sings several cover songs," he adds.

"Music is something he has to have for the rest of his life," he says. "The music gives him structure."

For years, Anoop shared that he has struggled to find an avenue for Sahil's music.

"An audience is impossible to find. I sent his music worldwide for 10 years, with zero interest."

Anoop has been posting videos of Sahil's singing on Facebook for over 15 years now.

What began as a way for him to keep the videos without using too much storage has turned into his hope to inspire others.

"My hope was to motivate somebody else in the same shoes," he explains. "I belong to these Facebook groups and autism groups, and if you can very early pick out that there's some hidden talent in there, you can refine it."

"If they have an interest, then you can bring that out. It could be anything. It could be singing or math. You have to engage people who have been diagnosed with autism, and if you ignore it, you don't even recognize it's there. A lot of times that spark is ignored, but a lot of talent does exist," he explains. "I picked it up right away, and we just started to work on it very quickly as soon as we discovered it.

When Season 14 of America's Got Talent premiered, the world met Kodi Lee, a 22-year-old man who had been diagnosed with autism and was legally blind.

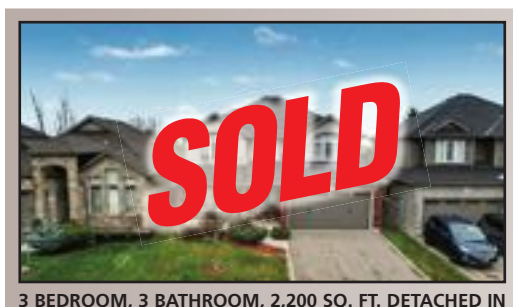
For Anoop, seeing Lee win America's Got Talent gave him hope for his own son.

"I did a little bit of research," says Anoop. "Kodi Lee's family, where they live and the music school that he goes to, they interact with him, and there were bars where Kodi could perform and they allowed him, they gave him opportunities and they appreciated him."









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SPORTS

Freeman and Keeler tally two each in Admirals' suspenseful 6-3 win over Oakville

BY JIM STEWART

The Caledon Admirals got two goals each from Curtis Freeman and Nolan Keeler en-route to a 6-3 victory over the Oakville Blades at the Mayfield Recreation Complex on Thursday night.

Freeman and Keeler have accrued 67 points so far this season and their veteran presence led the resurgent Admirals' offence versus the Blades.

Jacob Owsicki contributed a three-point night with a goal and two assists and Jack Fang earned three helpers. Ryan Haeney added an empty netter for his first goal of the season.

Fifty-six seconds into Thursday's contest at The Icebox, the red-clad Blades yielded Nolan Keeler's 13th goal of the season. The lightning-fast goal by the gold and burgundy-clad home side was assisted by Owsicki and Fang.

Oakville replied less than three minutes later when Matthew Ross beat Calem Yorke at 3:02.

After surrendering the tying goal, Caledon's lefty goalie made a series of high-quality saves – flashing the leather, kicking out the puck, and showed off his stick save skills to keep the Blades from securing momentum on the road.

Freeman restored the Admirals' lead when he got loose on the right wing and snapped a shot from just inside the faceoff circle that handcuffed Oakville goaltender Marcus Cruz-D'Annunzio almost 15 minutes into the period.

The Admirals' leading scorer described the go-ahead goal: "Brentnell did a nice job keeping the puck in and I saw Lang driving the net. He gave me a nice pass and I had room to shoot it."

Five seconds into the second period, the swift-skating Keeler created a breakaway and fired a laser from 30 feet, but Cruz-D'Annunzio snared the shot – much to the chagrin of Caledon's second-leading scorer who was looking to light the lamp as quickly as he did in the first period.

Less than two minutes later, Cruz-D'Annunzio was less fortunate. Off the left wing, Nate Brentnell saucered a perfect pass that Freeman finished skillfully from between the circles—lifting the puck in one motion over the diminutive Oakville goaltender.

Freeman described the beauty of a goal that put the Admirals up 3-1: "I saw him carry the puck and he gave me a perfect 'sauce'—right in my wheelhouse."

The Admirals held their two-goal lead for more than 10 minutes until Oakville capitalized on a power play at 12:26. After Calem Yorke made four rapid-fire saves in a chaotic goal-mouth sequence, he surrendered Tanner Nettleton's snapshot—set up by Ross – that bulged the twine and pulled the Blades to within one.

An end-to-end rush by Owsicki in the third period created the Admirals' game-winning goal.

The swift-skating forward—acquired in a trade from the North York Rangers in October—swept into the Oakville zone from the left wing, got Cruz-D'Annunzio moving right to left, and fired a wrist shot through a defender that beat the Blades' tender cleanly from between the circles.

Owsicki's unassisted marker put the home side up 4-2 and secured his first three-point night as an Admiral.

However, the Blades continued to generate suspense when penalty killer Tyler Le Conte picked up a loose puck in the Caledon zone and flung a wrist shot that beat Yorke at 4:55 to pull Oakville to within one at 4-3.

Le Conte's shortie was his first of the season.

Thirty-six seconds later, Keeler quelled the Blades' comeback with his second of the game. On another picturesque goal to which the fans were treated, the former Georgetown Bulldog took a pass from Fang and rifled a shot off the left wing that beat Cruz-Dannunzio to restore Caledon's two-goal lead.

Freeman described his teammate's scoring touch on the marker that put the Admirals ahead 5-3.

"He's very skilled. When he gets the puck in those scoring situations, he buries it nine out of ten times."

Fang earned his third assist of the game and 15th of the season on Keeler's power play marker.

Penalty killer Cam Lang picked up his second assist of the night when he pushed the puck to defender Ryan Haeney who slid it from his own right face-off dot into the empty Blades' cage with 1:26 left on the clock to provide the three-goal margin of victory.

Yorke stopped 15 of 16 shots in the third period, serving as his team's best penalty killer, and his 36-save performance was spectacular at times.


Caledon Admirals forward Nolan Keeler (77) fired two goals to sink the Oakville Blades 6 – 3 in OHJL action on Thursday night.
PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

Freeman complimented his goaltender's work: "He was solid. He was seeing the puck well and made some big saves when we needed him to, especially on the penalty kill."

Thursday's victory righted the Admirals' ship that had been listing with three losses in the last four games. More importantly, it avenged an 8-4 loss to the Blades in Oakville on November 22.

Freeman—Caledon's Assistant Captain—delineated the keys to the much-needed home ice win and contrasted last season when the youngest team in the OJHL struggled until Christmas: "Tonight, we came out strong in the first period. We got into some penalty trouble later in the game, but we got some big goals. Last year, we were a mostly young team. We've matured over a year and [GM] Ken [Jeyesman] has made some great moves bringing in players like Brentnell and Keeler. Jim Meredith has made a big difference in goal for us, too. Our coaching staff has us prepared for games and when we execute their systems, we've been winning."

The eighth-place Admirals improved their record to 12-12-1-2—a startling contrast to last season when the Fleet was buried in 12th place in the OJHL West and sat last in the 24-team league with a 4-26-0-0 record on December 6, 2024.

Mulmur women defends world title in all-natural women's physique bodybuilding championship

BY JAMES GERUS

Jessie Steinberg recently made her community of Mulmur proud after taking first place in the world championship for women's physique at a bodybuilding competition in Toronto.

Steinberg, 53, moved to Dufferin County in 2000. Prior to competing in bodybuilding competitions, she played semi-pro soccer, but two concussions in that sport led her to seek a different physical outlet.

It was when she was 45, taking her daughter to a gymnastics class, that another mom in the bodybuilding world suggested she give it a try. She took a chance on the sport in February of that year, and by October, she competed in her first competition.

While she was hesitant about undertaking such a daunting new skill, Steinberg explains, "I felt like a fish out of water. But you know what? I'm learning something new, I'm 45, and I'm learning something too. It's good for my brain, and humble for my ego. Let's go!"

Steinberg is someone who oozes optimism and curiosity from every ounce of her being. On top of her commitment to athletics, she works a myriad of jobs that connect her to the community.

She's well known as the founder of Leap Adventures, an educational team building organization that works with corporations and schools and gets them out of their comfort zones with team building activities.

Steinberg is a teacher for the Upper Grand District School Board, a part-time musician, works in disaster relief, and is working on a tree farm this holiday season.

Where does this entrepreneur of many trades get all this energy and motivation from? From two areas: One is looking after and respecting her body.

"I love when people sink into their bodies and know how strong they are," said Steinberg, who doesn't drink or smoke. "However you built your body, you built it — the way you feed it, move it, don't move it — and if you don't like how it feels let's get empowered to have it feel better!"

The other key factor is having a purpose and mission to help her community.

"Giving back to the community, creating community, it's part of who I am and how I roll in the world. I want to walk around with generosity, kindness, and integrity," said Steinberg.

That love of the body and zest for life keep her going and help her maintain a positive mindset as she won her latest competition.

On November 8 she defended her title in the Ultimate Fitness Events (UFE) World Championships for all-natural bodybuilding in Toronto.

Steinberg competed in the women's physique category and gained five extra pounds of muscle just for the show. After winning last year, she was able to win again and is hoping to have a three-peat next year.

But regardless of the outcome, Steinberg said, "In the end, this is about me showing up on stage with what I got, and in my world, I already won because I made it to the stage. Everything else is a bonus."

The regimen to prepare for the competition is intense; when hinting at her diet and physical training to prepare for the show, Steinberg reflects, "It's possible for women over 40 to build muscle."

Continued on Page 17



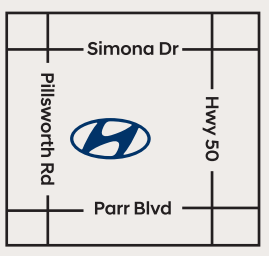
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Tractors/Skid Steer: Case IH MXU 110 4x4 tractor, Quicke Q41 loader, cab, 2 remotes, 4600hrs,; MF 265 tractor & Allied 590 loader, multi power; JD 5575 skid steer, material bucket, 3479hrs; JD X320 lawnmower, 54" deck, hydrostatic, 597hrs, annual maint. **Mach/Equip:** JD 8350 seed drill, 18 run, grass seed, 1 disc, fert; Gehl TDC 1475 round baler, 4x5's, inoc; NH Hayliner 315 sq baler & thrower; (3)18ft wood wagons; Kuhn GA4100 rotary rake, pull-type, tandem; Lucknow 6ft snowblower, hyd chute; post hole auger; Case IH 8330 haybine, 9ft; gravity box; Ford 8ft disc; IH 12ft cultivator, & harrows; (3) thrower wagons (2- 20ft, all steel tops, 1- 20ft steel with wood floor); 20ft wood & steel round bale wagon; for skidsteer- 2 prong hay fork, manure forks; Leon 375 manure spreader; Agro-Trend 3pth sprayer. **Horse Equip & Rel:** 4-seater horse sleigh, team hitch; (2) single horse shafts; (2) Fore carts (single, double); blankets; stocks-for shoeing; (2)horse bale feeders; whipple trees; (1) set work harness; (1)set Todd Style show harness; harness rack; qty heavy horse harness pieces, lines, etc; asst horse supplies; (2)steel stall dividers; (2)single horse sleighs; (4)stall corner feeders; (2)hay/grain feeders; (3)round bale feeders-tombstone style; semen tank; microscope; Black Horse Ale picture & trays; 4-wheel buggy-like new; 2-wheel pleasure driving cart; draft foal/horse halters; asst white show halters; leg wraps; asst show equip; and much more! **Shop/Farm Rel/Straw & Hay:** Onan 60W generator, alternator; 4'x8' 1-axle utility trailer; bale moisture tester; twine; tool chest; anvil-lg; battery charger; asst lumber; 1 tonne winch; oat/corn roller; asst of tools; (9)bales 3x3x6 wheat straw; some sm squares hay(if not used); stationary sander/grinder; radial arm saw; table saw. **HH & Antiques(A):** (A)flat back hutch & buffet cupboard; (V)Kenmore sewing machine; leather couch-dk brown, nice; recliner chair-brown fabric; pine dining room table & (6)chairs; pine buffet & hutch; (A) hutch; (6)wood chairs; dry sink;lots to see!

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NOTES: MAJORITY OF SALE WILL BE HELD INSIDE RIDING ARENA
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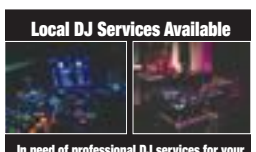
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OBITUARIES

HARRIET TSURUYO YAMASAKI-COYLE



Harriet Tsuruyo Yamasaki-Coyle, 92, passed away in Amaranth, Ontario. Born in Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii, Harriet touched countless hearts with her brilliant smile, gentle and kind nature, and a full-throated laugh that could lift the roof off its rafters.

In her youth, Harriet had a successful professional music career, with her best-known performance as Linda Low in Flower Drum Song in London, England. Over her lifetime she shared her musical learning with innumerous students, amateur singers, and community theater lovers. Harriet also gave her time as a piano player at her church and at Avalon Care Center in Orangeville, where the Drop-in Program staff welcomed her with great care and kindness.

She is survived by her children Mary, Chris, Anne, and Michael, her grandchildren Kate, Susie, David, Charlotte, Tyson, Carys, and great-grandchildren Charlie and Paul.

Harriet spent her final moments in the warmth of family at her daughter's home in Amaranth, Ontario. The family is especially grateful to the Ontario Health at Home palliative team and to nurses Kevin, Madison, and Osaro for the excellent care she received in her final days.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations to the Orangeville Food Bank in memory of Harriet.

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

LOIS HAND



Lois Jeannette Hand passed away peacefully on Dec. 4, 2025 at Headwaters Healthcare Centre, surrounded by her family.

Beloved wife of Earl. Devoted mother of Angela (Antonio) and Jen (Chris). Proud grandmother of Cooper, Freddii, Jack, Aeryn, and Chase. Lois will be lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

As per her wishes, a cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will follow at a later date. Details to follow. Online condolences may be placed at *www.jackandthompsonfuneralhome.com*

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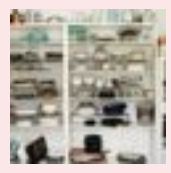
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Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, is pictured with Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones and Mayor Annette Groves.
PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Ontario issues RFP for Highway 410 extension connecting directly to future 413

Continued from FRONT

Sarkaria noted that gridlock is currently costing the economy $56 billion per year.

He added that MPPs in surrounding areas such as Brampton, Peel Region, York, and more know first-hand "how important it is for this highway in our rapidly growing communities."

"Shovels are in the ground and we're getting it done. It's part of our $30 billion plan to build and repair highways across the province to attract investment, keep drivers and goods moving, and to protect Ontario," said Sarkaria.

Mayor Groves said "the Highway 413 corridor will be a big help for our villages by supporting the extension of Highway 410 and easing traffic congestion on Highway 10, Caledon Village, and Valleywood."

Groves noted it will also spur the extension of Highway 427 and reduce the number of heavy trucks travelling on Highway 50.

"If any of you travel Highway 50 you'll know exactly what I'm talking about," she added. "This transportation project will provide much needed capacity and better connections throughout Caledon. It will support the growth we're planning, while helping to keep the unique character and vibrant spirit of our community intact."

She added Town Staff will make every effort to support and work in partnership with the Province to ensure the successful delivery of Highway 413 and mitigate any impacts to Caledon.

"Our government continues to push forward with the construction of the critical infrastructure that families, workers, and businesses across our community rely on," said MPP Jones. "This progress reflects our government's bold action to deliver the transportation network Ontario needs now, and for generations to come."

When it comes to mitigating trucking issues with the extension, Sarkaria said they have already significantly increased enforcement along both the Highway 10 and Highway 50 corridors, including targeted blitzes on both roads.

As of last month, they have carried out 94,000 inspections, a 45 per cent increase from the year before.

"You will see whether on Highway 10 or on Highway 50 we have significantly more enforcement on our roads," said Sarkaria.

In regard to the extension, the 410, where it winds around Valleywood, will now directly take drivers to the east of that area, said the Minister, and "avoid a lot of traffic going into some of the areas where there is high residential density."

"What this will do is effectively create another way for people that are traveling along Highway 10 to get to the 413 and connect to different parts of Caledon in a safer way, and help alleviate that pressure."

Sarkaria noted the 427 extension is also a part of their plan for Highway 413, and that it will help to "significantly help alleviate truck traffic on that element as well," as it pertains to Highway 50.

"This project is so vital not only for businesses but also from the perspective of continuin

Circular Materials to take over recycling collection come January

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Starting January 1, 2026, Circular Materials will take over recycling services in Caledon, Brampton, and Mississauga, as "part of a new policy that shifts the responsibility of recycling operations and costs to producers," shared Peel Region.

Residents will have the same recycling schedule and use the same recycling bin, but Peel Region will no longer be responsible for recycling.

This change comes as part of the Province-wide shift to the "Extended Producer Responsibility model," meaning that producers, the businesses that supply packaging and paper, are "financially responsible and accountable for recycling materials from their production to their disposal."

Peel Region shared that changing to the EPR model will "encourage more sustainable packaging, create consistency for all municipalities, and improve recycling outcomes across Ontario."

Circular Materials is a national not-for-profit producer responsibility organization that works to help producers meet their obligations under the EPR model in Canada.

Until December 31, 2025, Peel Region will continue to provide recycling-related services such as collection, bin replacement, bin repair, pick up for missed collections, and reporting lost or missing bins.

After January 1, Peel Region will continue to collect garbage, organics, and yard waste.

Mulmur women defends world title

Continued from Page 13

"We just have to shift what we've always done. We have to eat differently and move differently. Instead of doing cardio, we actually have to lift weights."

As a bodybuilder, Steinberg is committed to living a natural lifestyle and competing in competitions as a natural bodybuilder, despite the challenge of gaining muscle at an older age.

"If people choose not to go natural, they need to know what they're getting into," she said, noting the side effects are what really concern her.

"The implications are huge. There's something to be said about being a natural bodybuilder and seeing how you can build muscle with what you got."

Fortunately, Steinberg has many supportive people on her side. Even Popeye's Supplements in Orangeville supports her as an athlete and helps provide her with supplements and powders to aid her journey.

When asked if she has a favourite part of the body to work out, she said, while it's definitely not leg day, "I love doing upper body, typically chest and shoulders are my (favourite)."

When asked if she has advice for others looking to take up bodybuilding at any age, she said to "connect with somebody, connect with a coach. Someone who has been in it. And connect with someone who is also a natural."

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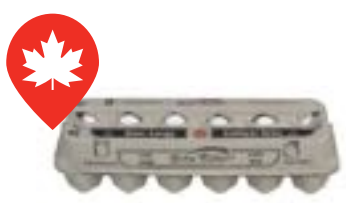


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