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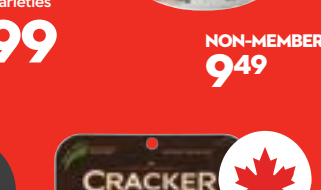
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FREE | Thursday, January 29, 2026 | Volume 46, Issue 4



(Left to Right) Lieutenant Colonel Wade Sett, Captain (ret'd) Kevin Junor, Mayor Annette Groves, MPP Sylvia Jones. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Caledon commemorates No. 2 Construction Battalion with memorial plaques

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The No. 2 Construction Battalion is the largest Black unit in Canadian history, whose members, for numerous years, faced adversity, rejection, and racism in their attempt to serve their country.

The Town of Caledon has issued a commemorative plaque not only to recognize the service of the Battalion, but also to honour Caledon resident Thomas Bush, a member of the Battalion who died during the First World War.

The plaque was unveiled at North Peel Community Church, where various community members, members of Council, dignitaries, and Canadian Armed Forces Members and Veterans gathered to remember the legacy of the Battalion.

"Their legacy is one of resilience, service, and quiet excellence. Today, we ensure that legacy is visibly and permanently acknowledged," said Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson, event emcee and King Charles III Coronation Medal recipient.

"I am proud to recognize the historic contribution, service, and legacy of Canada's largest Black military unit which served during the First World War," said Mayor Annette Groves. "The No. 2 Construction Battalion holds a unique and important place in Canadian history as the country's only all-Black unit to serve during the First World War."

While many were enlisting in the First World War in 1914, by the beginning of 1915, almost 200 Black volunteers had been turned away from registration, according to the Canadian Encyclopedia.

Following this large-scale rejection of Black volunteers, Black communities across Canada wrote to Militia Headquarters and the Governor-General to request that Black Canadians be allowed to enlist.

Continued on Page A17

MP highlights tools and collaboration in addressing extortion crimes

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Following an Anti-Extortion Summit held in Brampton on Tuesday, January 13, the Government of Canada is providing Peel Region with up to $1 million to combat extortion crime.

Ruby Sahota, MP for Brampton North-Caledon, has discussed hopeful changes in extortion-related cases in Peel.

Continued on Page A5



WINTER FUN - Freezing temperatures didn't stop the Caledon Community from celebrating our First Responders this past weekend as TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley hosted its First Responders Appreciation Family Skate over the weekend. For more, see Page A13. PHOTO BY TPC TORONTO

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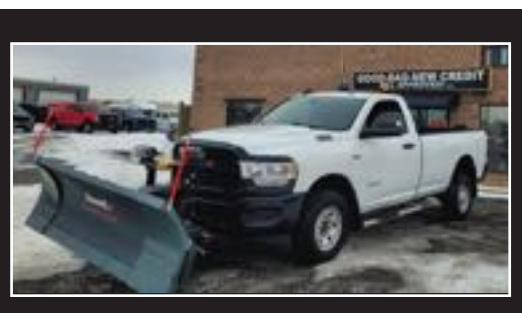
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Caledon Council returns from ROMA after discussing future of community

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Council recently travelled to Toronto to take part in this year's Ontario Rural Leaders Conference, where they discussed important initiatives for the future of Caledon.

The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) held the annual conference, where municipalities and organizations across Ontario gathered to work together and discuss each municipality's challenges and priorities.

Mayor Annette Groves noted that at ROMA they were able to meet with Provincial ministries to discuss key priorities for the Town of Caledon.

Groves says that these conversations focused on issues that "matter most to the community," including concerns around aggregates and the approval of OPA1, illegal land use and trucking, advancing the Caledon-Vaughan GO Line, improving safety along Highway 10, securing funding to support seniors and accessibility, a new courthouse, reliable high-speed internet, and ensuring that housing growth in Caledon is well supported while prioritizing local job creation.

"We were encouraged by the productive and collaborative discussions with the ministries, which demonstrated a strong commitment to working with Caledon to move these priorities forward for the benefit of our residents," says Groves.

Christina Early, Regional Councillor for Caledon, who also sits on the Board of Directors for ROMA, says "rural priorities took center stage, giving Caledon unprecedented access."

As a Board member, she says she participated in the "most impactful conference yet," with nearly 2,300 delegates from 316 municipalities and 651 delegation meetings with 25 ministers, associate ministers, and parliamentary assistants.

"We prioritized updating the Municipal Act and Planning Act for stronger tools against illegal land use, ensuring no financial shortfall from Caledon's Regional Development Charge Deferral commitment, and securing infrastructure funding. These aligned with rural-wide concerns like housing affordability and economic resilience," says Early.

She also noted Caledon's various positions, including their position to update the Municipal Act and the Planning Act to give municipalities the tools to address illegal land use and Caledon's position of ensuring that there is "no financial shortfall resulting from the Regional Development Charge Deferral commitment."

ROMA's sessions tackled topics of housing, health care access, and community services head-on.

Early says that issues such as illegal land use were vital conversations at ROMA.

"From my ROMA Board vantage, rural municipalities showed growing influence at Queen's Park via cross-party engagement which is a real potential for policy wins. We will continue prioritizing follow-ups to drive action on our priorities," says Early.

Going into ROMA, Councillor Doug Maskell shared he was hoping to address issues "of great importance to the Town of Caledon," such as getting a commitment from the Province to bring forward legislation on illegal land use and seeking information on the construction of Highway 413 and its impact on Caledon.

Maskel led two delegations on behalf of the Town of Caledon with the Official Opposition, New Democratic Party and the Green Party.

"During these delegations, I emphasized the importance of advancing the date for the Vaughan-Bolton GO Line and its importance in building transit oriented communities. In addition, I asked them to push the Provincial government to amend the Municipal Act and Planning Act to give municipalities the tools to combat illegal land uses such as truck yards and event centers," said Maskell.

He adds that as Council's new designate on the SWIFT board he delegated to the Ministry of Energy and Mines on the "serious deficiencies" in Caledon's broadband network and how imperative it is to Caledon's residential and industrial growth.

"My key take away was Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack's commitment to bring forward legislation to deal with illegal land use in the spring session of provincial parliament. The issue of illegal land use has been a priority of this Council since day one, so to see provincial action on this file will be most gratifying," says Maskell.

Councillor Cosimo Napoli says that ROMA was a very productive and collaborative conference for Caledon.

"Our delegation was focused on ensuring issues like illegal land use, infrastructure funding, extortion, transportation, managing rapid growth had a strong voice at the table as well as many more crucial issues in Caledon, and the discussions were overwhelmingly positive," says Napoli.

At ROMA, he says, they emphasized the need for provincial support and sustainable funding to deliver the infrastructure required to support housing growth and job creation.

For him, highlights from the conference included discussions with MPP Amarjot Sandhu, Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure, on advancing the Peel Public Utility model to help fast-track infrastructure, as well as a meeting with the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, where we advocated for expanded eligibility, flexibility, and longer-term stable funding to better support aging in place.

"Overall, ROMA reinforced the strength of Council's relationships with the provincial government and set the stage for continuing these important conversations," says Napoli.



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TOWN OF CALEDON

Caledon OPP presents Caledon Community Business Engagement initiative



Caledon OPP with the Caledon Chamber of Commerce.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon OPP is aiming to create a safer and more informed business community in Caledon.

At the Caledon Chamber of Commerce's recent Annual General Meeting, Caledon OPP presented their new Caledon Community Business Engagement (CBE) Initiative.

Through the CBE initiative, Caledon OPP hopes to increase trust and confidence between police and businesses, yield better reporting of suspicious activity, have stronger intelligence on extortion and property crime, and create a visible police presence that deters criminal activity.

Caledon OPP shares that local businesses across Caledon have voiced concerns regarding numerous issues such as break and enters, theft, fraud and emerging extortion-related calls and emails linked to organized crime.

At the presentation, Caledon OPP was handing out cards they had recently printed regarding how to spot and respond to extortion, a growing concern in the Town of Caledon.

Many of these issues businesses in Caledon are facing were said to often go underreported due to uncertainty about the reporting processes or concerns about the impact on the business.

Operations Sergeant with the Caledon Detachment, Vijay Rai, says the CBE initiative is working to close those gaps.

He shares the initiative is built around visibility, trust and communication.

Part of the CBE initiative includes high-visibility foot and bicycle patrol officers who will engage directly with business owners and staff, build relationships and open communication, increase awareness of crime prevention strategies, and provide guidance on reporting and police support.

For businesses, Caledon OPP explains this means a "professionally resourced, prevention-driven partnership focused on safer commercial areas and stronger collaboration."

Objectives of this program will aim to increase police presence in commercial areas, build relationships with business owners and managers, and support broader organized crime prevention and intelligence gathering.

Through this initiative, the OPP will be able to gather feedback on crime trends and safety concerns that arise in the community.

Another aspect of this program is education. The OPP will aim to provide education on break-and-enter prevention, fraud awareness and extortion indicators.

The program will operate using two uniform officers per shift, with 10-hour deployments from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., running two days per week over 12 weeks .

The deployed officers will focus on commercial plazas, business corridors, and areas experiencing theft, fraud or extortion concerns.

The foot and bicycle patrols are both for approachability and visibility in the community.

At the presentation, it was said these Officers will engage directly with businesses, provide crime prevention advice, discuss extortion indicators and encourage timely reporting.

Rai says officers have already been out in the community for a few weeks, listing and reporting, and conducting spot checks in the commercial areas.

He says this reporting and work is hopefully leading towards increased trust between police and businesses.

It was explained that all of the information collected during the initiative will go towards a master report, allowing the OPP to track business interactions and emerging patterns, identify crime trends and organized crime indicators, and share intelligence with specialized units to support enforcement and prevention.

Caledon OPP says this master report will not only ensure that residents' concerns are heard, but they will also be analyzed and acted upon.

Support for the initiative comes from the Community Safety and Policing (CSP) Grant-Funded Initiative, which addresses issues such as dedicated officer deployment without impacting frontline service levels, with a focus on crime prevention.

Inspector Kirsten Buligan with the Crime Prevention and Community Support Bureau for the OPP and her team worked with numerous OPP officers, including Operations Sergeant Rai, to help secure grants and funding for the initiative.

Their goal of creating a safer and more informed business community includes their hopes of seeing increased trust and confidence between police and businesses, better reporting of suspicious activity, stronger intelligence on extortion and property crime, and that their visible police presence deters criminal activity.

In this initiative, they're asking for a partnership from local businesses.

Caledon OPP is asking Caledon businesses to engage with officers during visits, share concerns and trends they are seeing, report suspicious activity early, and provide feedback on how they can improve.

Through their partnership with the Caledon Chamber of Commerce, they're hoping to reach local businesses and the broader business community to "make Caledon an even safer place to live, work and do business."

Inspector Natalie Majer with the Caledon OPP says she knows every local community is different, and what they're experiencing in Caledon is that "a lot is happening."

"This is step one in a number of steps in order for us to get out more into the community," says Majer.

She shares that with this initiative, getting the team out into the community and establishing relationships with businesses is extremely important.

Buligan, with the Crime Prevention and Community Support Bureau, explains that many more of their initiatives are often what you'll see out in the Caledon Community, including officers on their Auxiliary team.

Auxiliary is a group of dedicated volunteers who work with regular OPP officers, and Buligan says it is not only a stepping stone to becoming an officer but also a way to help the community.

Buligan says many of their initiatives at the Crime Prevention and Community Support Bureau, such as their Lock It or Lose It initiative, are designed to keep the community safe.

Now, Caledon OPP is here to help work with residents and businesses to create a more informed and safe community.

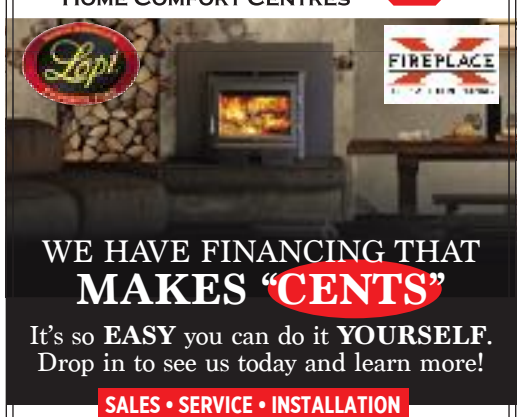
Rai says the CBE initiative is truly a partnership, and they are relying on businesses, police, and local government to "work in alignment to reduce risks, disrupt criminal activity, and create safer environments for employees, customers, and the broader community."

Majer says community engagement is not just staying in your car as officers, it's getting out of your car, building these relationships, and having these important conversations, leading to an overall safer and connected community.

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CALEDON OPP CHARGE DRIVER AFTER COLLISION WITH TOW OPERATOR

The Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have recently charged a driver after striking a local tow operator with their vehicle.

"On January 24, 2026, at approximately 4:30 p.m., Caledon OPP officers were on scene of a call for service involving a broken-down vehicle on Mayfield Road, near Robertson Davis Drive, in the Town of Caledon," say Police.

"Police blocked the live lane of traffic while a local tow operator was working on removing the vehicle from the road. Despite the use of flashing emergency lights and high-visibility reflective gear, a passing vehicle failed to move over and struck the arm of the tow operator, who suffered minor injuries as a result of the incident."

As a result of the investigation, an 80-year-old from Brampton was charged with:

- Careless driving;
- Fail to slow down and proceed with caution for tow truck.

The charges have not been proven.

"Motorists are reminded to proceed with caution when driving past police cars, firetrucks, ambulances, and tow trucks - failure to do so can result in charges. Please remember, when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle, slow down and pass with caution. If a road has two or more lanes, you must leave a lane of space between you and the emergency vehicle if you can do so safely. For more information, please visit: www.ontario.ca/page/driving-near-emergency-vehicles."

FATAL COLLISION INVESTIGATION ON HIGHWAY 9

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

"On January 21, 2026, at approximately 10:20 a.m., officers and other emergency services, responded to a two-vehicle collision on Highway 9, between Mount Wolfe Road and Tottenham Road, in the Town of Caledon. One driver, a 21-year-old from Peterborough, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The other involved driver was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries," say Police.

"Highway 9 between Highway 50 and Tottenham Road remained closed for several hours while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionists assisted with the investigation."

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP at (905) 584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122.

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

CALEDON OPP INVESTIGATING A FAIL TO REMAIN COLLISION

The Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a fail to remain collision on Cranston Drive.

"On January 17, 2026, Caledon OPP responded to a report of a collision on Cranston Drive at Jean Street, in the Town of Caledon. Upon arrival, officers found that one of the two involved vehicles failed to remain on scene. The collision took place between approximately 8:20 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., and no injuries were reported as a result," say Police.

"The suspect vehicle, which is believed to be a dark-coloured, older-model Honda sedan, was last seen traveling westbound on Cranston Drive. The vehicle sustained damage to the driver-side front bumper as a result of the collision."

The Caledon OPP is encouraging the driver and any passengers to come forward and speak with investigators regarding the collision.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has further information is asked to contact Caledon OPP at (905) 584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact CrimeStoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

OPP REMINDING RESIDENTS NOT TO SHOVEL SNOW ONTO ROADWAYS

With heavy snowfall continuing across the region, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding residents, property owners, and businesses that shoveling, plowing, or blowing snow onto the roadway is both dangerous and illegal.

The Ontario Highway Traffic Act, Section 181, states that no person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without written permission from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for maintaining that road.

Individuals who violate this section may be charged under Section 214(1) of the Highway Traffic Act, which provides for a fine ranging from 60 to 1,000 dollars.

Depositing snow onto the roadway creates several hazards for motorists and pedestrians. Snow piles can obstruct sightlines, create icy patches, interfere with snowplow operations, and increase the risk of collisions. These hazards compromise road safety and place additional strain on winter maintenance crews who must return to re-clear affected areas.

The OPP recognizes the challenges residents face as significant snowfall accumulates, especially in areas with limited space for snow storage. However, using the roadway for snow disposal is not a safe or acceptable solution. Residents are encouraged to use designated areas on their own property and follow local municipal guidelines for proper snow removal.

Everyone has a role to play in keeping roads safe this winter. Proper snow management supports efficient road maintenance and helps ensure safer travel for all road users.

For more information about local bylaws and winter safety practices, please visit your municipality's website or contact your local OPP detachment.

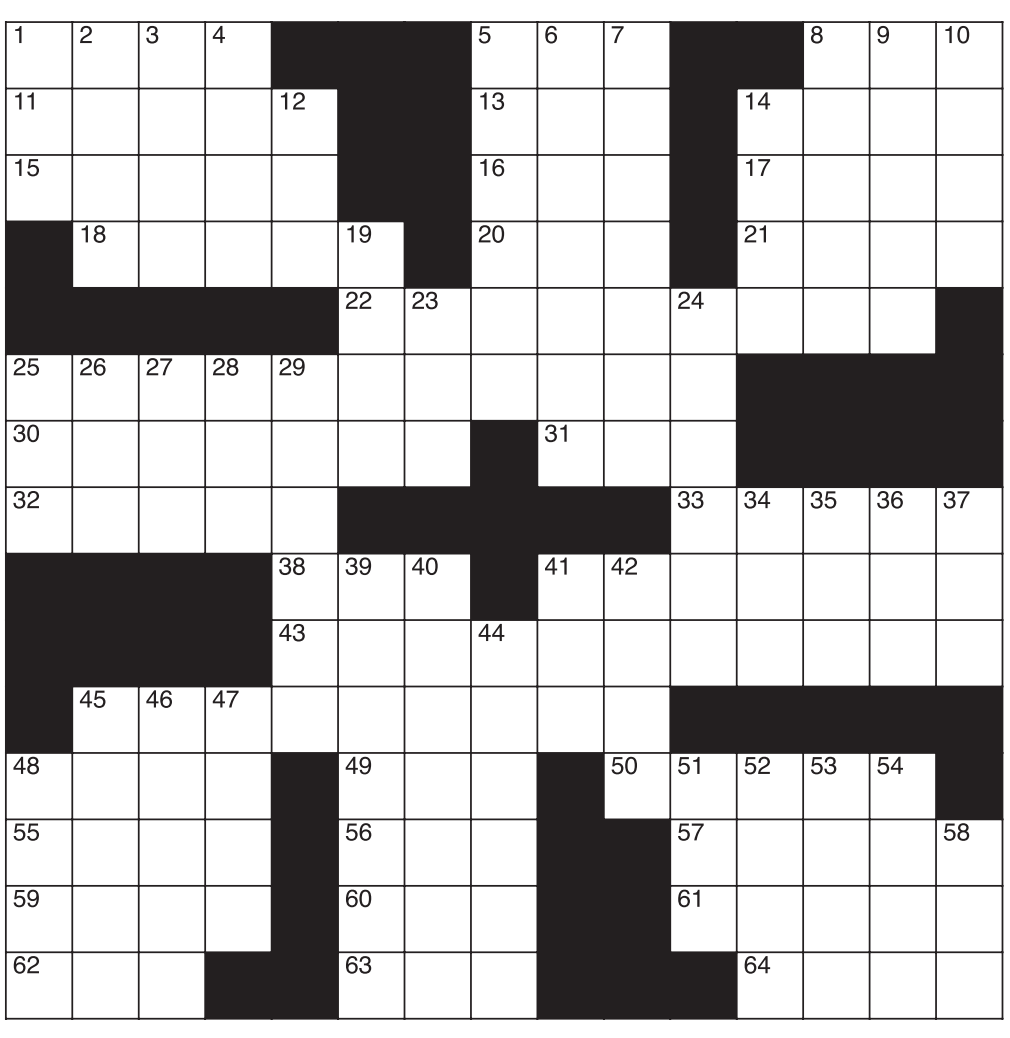

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8. Very fast airplane
11. Immune responses
13. "Partner" to feather
14. New England river
15. Longest river in New Guinea
16. Midway between east and southeast
17. Israeli politician
18. Back bones
20. Consumed
21. One you can rely on
22. Dressed up gaudily
25. Representatives
30. Dog breed
31. Pitching statistic
32. Manpower
33. S. Korean entertainer
38. Outsourcing firm
41. Viceroy of Egypt under Turkish rule
43. One who removes antlers from a flower
45. Potluck dish
48. Discount
49. Airborne (abbr.)
50. Cavalry sword
55. Basics
56. Hollywood director Howard
57. Afflicted in mind or body
59. Horsley and Majors are two
60. Midway between northeast and east
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Malaysian isthmus
63. Fall back
64. Cheek

CLUES DOWN

1. Former CIA
2. Baseball's best pitchers
3. __ Nui, Easter Island
4. Invests in little enterprises
5. Constant
6. Hobby
7. A place to store food
8. Short-tail marten
9. Burn with a hot liquid
10. Left his heart in San Francisco
12. Swedish krona
14. Legendary actor Connery
19. French cleric
23. Former measure of length for textiles
24. Opaque glassy substance
25. Residue of burned item
26. A place to unwind
27. Japanese honorific
28. Terminus
29. Fails to make a shot
34. Journalist Tarbell
35. College hoops tournament
36. Monetary unit of Macao
37. Of she
39. Spoke ill of
40. Elements
41. Kilocalorie (abbr.)
42. Shades
44. Poem of fourteen lines
45. Pole used in Scottish sport
46. Hollyhocks genus
47. Street name for marijuana
48. Polio vaccine developer
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Confederate soldiers
58. Criticize

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

MP highlights need for Federal tools and collaboration in addressing extortion crimes

Continued from FRONT

At the Summit, Sahota says she was happy to see so many levels of support and representation from all areas coming together.

"It was also essential in order to really have this conversation and to find out from all of the different representatives of people that have become victims as to what they're hearing and what suggestions they have in terms of how we could be more effective and how we can coordinate even better moving forward."

The summit, she adds, is not the first time these anti-extortion-related conversations have been held, but, with everyone gathered at once, it was an important check-in where they could be had right away.

From the conversations, she notes, more creative solutions as well as how the Federal government, or one of their agencies at the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), can be embedded into Peel Regional Police and possibly the OPP, to expedite removals of those who are criminally involved in extortion cases and don't have status in this country.

Sahota says that issues of extortion in the community were first raised in late 2023, and they began to see more cases in 2024.

"At that point, a national coordination support team was struck by the RCMP in February of 2024 so that they could coordinate the cases that were happening, since these are transnational organized crime groups that are committing these crimes, along with various other crimes, in our country and abroad," says Sahota. "It was important to have a national body that can link police agencies together and that could point out similarities in cases and point out cases where [police of one] jurisdiction should be communicating with another in order to better advance their investigation."

Sahota adds that there is always more that can be done.

A lot of these crimes are being committed over the phone or the internet, and she explains that one longtime request that would help these cases is the ability of police agencies to connect phone numbers to names to aid in investigations.

A draft of the legislation for this had been done previously, as Sahota says, when they took government, one of the first bills they presented was C-2.

Bill C-2 is an act respecting certain measures relating to the security of the border between Canada and the United States and respecting other related security measures. In that, she shares there were provisions for lawful access measures.

Sahota adds that all of their Five Eyes Partners, referring to the Five Eyes intelligence alliance created after the Second World War between Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, have these measures in place.

"If we give police those tools, I know, and they reassured me that they'd be able to investigate these cases quicker and make arrests and so it's really, really important," says Sahota.

Sahota adds "that was a measure that got left behind in Bill C-2 and hasn't advanced through Parliament because there's been no opposition support for it."

She explains that currently to connect a person to a phone number is sometimes taking up to six months for law enforcement to obtain a judicial warrant."

Something that used to be as simple as flipping through a phone book now takes much longer.

On October 23, 2025, the Government of Canada, following consultation, introduced legislation to make bail laws stricter and toughen sentencing laws, the Bail and Sentencing Reform Act.

"I'm very optimistic that within the next few weeks we'll see some further progression on the bail and sentencing bill, but bail and sentencing comes after you've arrested somebody," says Sahota.

"These extortionists are committing acts of violence where they're shooting people's homes, businesses, setting them on fire in order to create that environment of fear in which they would thrive and, and are starting to thrive," says Sahota. "They do that so that they can intimidate people to pay up."

"It's caused a lot of fear in the community," she says.

Sahota adds that people are receiving calls with personal information regarding their families, themselves, and their businesses.

"That's really scary when you receive those types of persistent calls and then they're followed up by violent acts. People are really, really, really scared."

At the Anti-Extortion summit, it was announced that the Government of Canada is providing Peel Regional Police with up to $1 million to "bolster the Service's work to combat extortion, support and provide services to victims, and build on efforts already underway through its extortion task force."

It was also announced that the Government of Canada will establish a new Regional Integrated Drug Enforcement Team (RIDET) in partnership with the Government of Ontario and local authorities.

Through a federal investment of $4 million over four years, provided through Canada's Border Plan, the RIDET will bring together law enforcement resources from multiple agencies and jurisdictions in a centralized hub to "share information and intelligence and increase law enforcement coordination to disrupt organized crime groups that control the illegal drug market and perpetuate extortion."

Sahota says that Peel is dealing with the "brunt" of many of these cases at this time, and this will help provide additional support, hopefully creating more prompt responses to victims, updating them on their cases and providing them services.

She says that conversations are continuing about the best resources to assist in solving these issues and what Peel needs most when it comes to these cases.

"We're trying right now to have better communication with police jurisdiction. In the past, federal governments have not been directly involved with police jurisdictions; I'm trying to change that at least communications wise, because I think it is important that we understand what the boots on the ground are facing and what they're going through so that if it's policy that needs to be changed at the federal level, then we can do it," says Sahota.

"It's important that all levels work together and that we have a strong front at our borders, at our federal ports, and our national scope policing as well as on the ground."

In the community, many are feeling frustrated when it comes to these extortion cases, says Sahota.

"They want to see results, and I want to see results too. I understand where that frustration comes from."

Sahota has received numerous calls from those facing extortion in the community, whether it's those worried about expanding their business, running their business where numerous employees are involved, or concerns from employees themselves about coming in to work.

"I'm very optimistic that through their advocacy and their calls that police and every level understands this to be a serious situation that obviously demands everyone's attention and the coordinated effort towards so that people can feel free to operate their businesses and thrive in our communities," says Sahota. "They don't have to be scared of being successful or for expanding their businesses."

On top of that, Sahota adds that arrests are extremely important.

"The more arrests that are made the more control we'll get over the situation."

When it comes to these cases, Sahota urges residents not to get discouraged about contacting the police.

"I think it is important for people not to get discouraged and through their frustration stop reporting these incidents to the police. It's really important. Even if the incident is as minor as a phone call having been received, or if it's as serious as violence having been used in the attempt to extort somebody, I think all incidences need to be reported because many of these incidences are interlinked with other incidences and the more information the police have the better equipped they will be to solve these cases."

A Healthy and Engaged Community

CALEDON COMMUNITY SERVICES

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www.ccs4u.org | 905-584-2300

"Braving the Cold to Bring Warmth to our Neighbours"

by Bill Parnaby, The Bill Parnaby Team, Lead Sponsor, CNOY



Earlier this January, Caledon was hit with the heaviest snowstorm of the season. Temperatures stayed well below –10°C and like many of you, I settled into winter mode. We filled the fridge. Turned up the heat. Helped a neighbour clear a driveway. Then we waited it out indoors, grateful for warmth and a roof overhead.

But that week, I kept thinking: what happens when you can't wait it out?

What happens when there isn't enough money for the heating bill and groceries, and every cold night is something to endure rather than escape?

For far too many people, that isn't a hypothetical - it's daily life. More than one million people used food banks in Ontario last year* and here in Caledon, the number of neighbours relying on Caledon Community Services' (CCS) Exchange Food Bank - the only full-service food bank in our community - has nearly doubled since before the pandemic.

I grew up in Caledon. This community shaped me. I learned early on that when someone stumbles, we don't look away, we reach out. I believe in a hand up, not a handout and I'm proud that CCS lives that belief every day. Their work goes far beyond filling plates, offering wraparound, holistic support that helps neighbours rebuild stability, independence and dignity.

That's why my team and I have supported Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) since 2021 and we are proud to once again serve as a Lead Sponsor this year.

Every step we take and every dollar we raise is really about one thing: reminding people that they are not alone.

What I love most about CNOY is how much it feels like Caledon at its best. Neighbours walking side by side. Local businesses opening their doors with coffee and hot chocolate. Teams laughing, fundraising and quietly proving that community isn't just a word, it's something we practice.

So this February 28, I'll lace up my boots and step outside. Not just to walk, but to stand with neighbours who need a little extra support this winter. I hope you'll join me by walking, sponsoring or donating.

Because when it gets cold in Caledon, we take care of one another.

So… we'll see you there? Learn more or get involved by scanning the QR code or visiting cnoy.org/caledon.

**Between April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025. Source: Feed Ontario Hunger Report 2025*

How Do You See It?

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

Notice of Open House
Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment

FILE NUMBER(S): RZ 2016-0014 Related File Number: SPA 2016-0063

An Open House will be held to consider a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

Date: **February 18, 2026**

Time: **6 PM to 8 PM**

Open House Location: **Gathering Space,**
Humber River Centre, 28 Ann Street, Bolton, ON L7E 1B9

APPLICANT AND LOCATION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY:

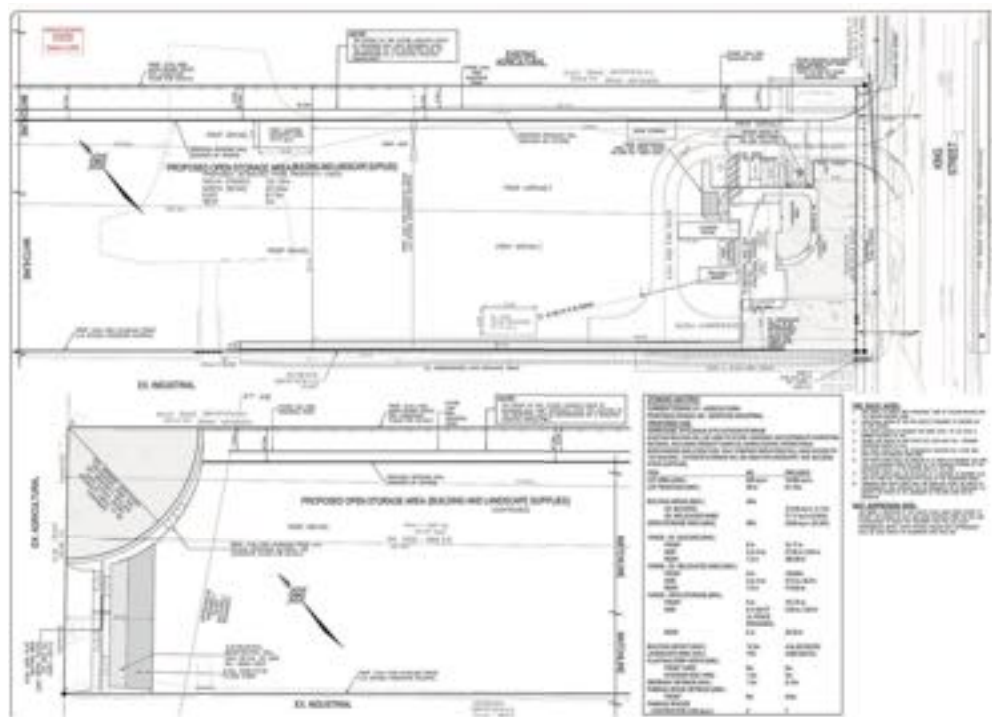
Applicant: Robert Russell Planning Consultants Inc. on behalf of 2473903 Ontario Inc.

Location: 8186 King Street
CON 5 ALB PT LOT 11

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The applicant has submitted a Zoning By-law Amendment application to facilitate the development of a Contractor's Facility, Business Office and Accessory Open Storage Area.

This Open House has been scheduled to provide the public further opportunity to review the current proposal as a number of years has passed since the Statuatory Public Information Meeting was held.



**The aerial mapping is for information purposes OR The illustration is a conceptual plan for information purposes and it is subject to change. The application is currently under review by the Town of Caledon.*

LEAD PLANNER:
Sagar Babbar, MA
Community Planner, Development
Planning and Development
Department
905-584-2272 ext. 4041

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information about this matter, including appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and for supporting material, please visit www.caledon.ca/notices or contact the Lead Planner at Town Hall from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

APPEAL PROCEDURE:

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of Town of Caledon to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to Town of Caledon before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to Town of Caledon before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Caledon on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Town of Caledon, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, Ontario, L7C 1J6.

ACCESSIBILITY:

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

Multi-Tenant Landowners: Please post this notice in a visible location to all residents of the land.

Notice Date: January 29, 2026

TOWN OF CALEDON

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

ARTS & CULTURE

Theatre Orangeville set to present "Common Ground," an 80s romantic comedy

BY JOSHUA DRAKES



IN THE LIMELIGHT: Still early into rehearsals, Common Ground has a long way to go while the actors find their strides and settle into their characters. But even early into rehearsals, the chemistry that Director Jennifer Stewart (right) was looking for is already manifesting. The cast and crew of Common Ground are excited to bring this 1980's story to life. PHOTO BY JOSHUA DRAKES

Theatre Orangeville is going back in time with Common Ground, a romantic comedy premiering Feb. 6 that blends heartbreak, humour and hope against a distinctly 1980s backdrop.

Directed by Theatre Orangeville Artistic Director Jennifer Stewart, Common Ground explores what happens when long-standing relationships suddenly fall apart – and what can grow in their place. Set in 1984 in a small town in New Brunswick, the play introduces audiences to Pam and Jake, two strangers whose spouses have abruptly run off, leaving them blindsided and struggling to make sense of their new realities.

Instead of depicting the breakups themselves, the play drops viewers directly into the emotional aftermath. The story follows Pam and Jake as they navigate betrayal and rediscovery – with plenty of awkward moments and laughs along the way.

Lauren Bowler, who plays Pam, describes her character as highly cerebral and cautious, someone who lives largely inside her own head. Pam is grounded by her best friend Lizzy, whose confidence and spontaneity challenge Pam to reconnect with herself and rediscover what she wants from life.

"Pam really lives in a constant state of stress throughout this entire show," Bowler said. "She has to go on a journey of reconnecting with herself, and Lizzy is this beautiful prompt of a friend to encourage her to take those next steps."

Lizzy, played by Heather McGuigan, is described as an unapologetic free spirit. Loyal, outspoken and largely unmoved by social expectations.

"Lizzy was given an extraordinary amount of confidence to live the way that she wants to live," McGuigan said. "She either tries to encourage other people to embody that freedom, or she's not bothered by a world that doesn't like it. She is fiercely loyal to her friends."

On the other side of the story is Jake, portrayed by Jamie Mac. At first glance, Jake appears to be a simple farm boy, but Mac says there is much more depth beneath the surface. Jake is plainspoken and direct, someone who may come across as unsophisticated, but who possesses a grounded wisdom shaped by a quiet life.

"I think Jake is more sophisticated than might meet the eye from the start," Mac said. "In some ways, he's just a farm boy who doesn't have a lot of social experience or worldliness, but he discovers a certain kind of earthly wisdom through the eyes of someone special."

Mac adds that Jake's straightforward nature can be misread.

"He's a bit of a square peg no matter where he goes," he said. "People might find him offensive, but he wouldn't view himself that way. I think he's lived a pretty simple life, and he's desperate for a lot more connection than he's ever had before."

As Pam and Jake meet while picking up the pieces of their lives, the play explores themes of selfdiscovery, healing and the possibility of new love. The question isn't just whether romance will spark, but whether these characters can build meaningful connections and support systems after everything they thought was stable has fallen apart.

Stewart said casting was central to making the smallcast production work, particularly given the balance required between comedy and emotional weight.

"It's about casting the actors you think will work well together, then rehearsing the play and figuring out all the moments," Stewart said. "What do they want? What do they need? What's their arc? Then helping them get there through rehearsals so they feel confident and ready to tell the story in a way that's engaging, interesting and truthful."

The decision to set Common Ground in 1984 was also deliberate. Stewart said the era helps ground the story while raising the stakes for the characters. The culture around affairs, or divorce, was less progressive and less support was available at the time.

Combine that with a nosy, small town, and the stakes have risen significantly.

"Everyone knows everyone, word gets around fast, and anything deemed not right or not nice is hugely troubling and shameful," Stewart said."It's a bit of a fishbowl, so the stakes are extremely high."

Despite those tensions, Stewart emphasized that Common Ground remains firmly a comedy. The production leans into humour through misunderstandings, awkward encounters and sharp dialogue, all underscored by a distinctly 1980s soundtrack.

"We decided on 1984 because it was an exceptional year for hits that are still around," Stewart said. "Girls Just Want to Have Fun, What's Love Got to Do With It, When Doves Cry, and I Wear My Sunglasses at Night – they're songs people still recognize and respond to."

The goal, Stewart said, is to create an immersive, feelgood experience that allows audiences to escape for a couple of hours while still connecting with something meaningful.

"We're encouraging people to come in their '80s best," she said. "Dress up — it's going to be a fun night out. Humans need hope, whether it's in relationships, friendships or life in general. There's always hope. We can never give up."

Common Ground premieres Feb. 6 at Theatre Orangeville, promising laughs, romance and a nostalgic trip back to the 1980s.

For tickets and more information, visit theatreorangeville.ca.

Headwaters announces lineup of fundraising events through 2026

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Headwaters Health Care Foundation (HHCF) has released its official lineup of events in 2026 to fundraise for essential equipment and facility upgrades not funded by the government.

The first event of the year is the Headwaters Golf Classic on June 22. It will be followed by the Headwaters Gala, "Headwaters in Wonderland" on September 11, and to finish off the year, Headwaters Hike to Fight Cancer will occur on October 8.

"These events are more than celebrations, they are a lifeline for local health care," said HHCF CEO K.C. Carruthers. "Last year, our signature events raised over a million dollars to support care in our community. We look forward to seeing our community at all these events again this year as we build a healthier future for Headwaters."

2026 Headwaters Signature Event Lineup

Headwaters Golf Classic: Presented by Crewson Insurance & Dufferin Mutual Insurance Company, The Headwaters Golf Classic is hosted at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley (North Course & Heathlands). The Headwaters Golf Classic is bigger and better than ever this year, expanding to two courses for a full day of golf, on-course food stations, activities, a silent auction, and a post-event cocktail reception featuring a live auction and prizes. Funds raised will support Headwaters upcoming Emergency Department (ED) expansion, a vital project for our growing community. Sponsorships and foursomes are available for purchase now.

The Annual Headwaters Gala: This year's theme is sure to dazzle. Head down the rabbit hole with Headwaters in Wonderland at Hockley Valley Resort on Friday, September 11. Step into a world of wonder and whimsy inspired by Alice in Wonderland. Guests will enjoy cocktails and culinary delights, live and silent auctions, dancing and games, and a night of transformative philanthropy. Last year, the Gala raised $925,000 for vital surgical equipment; this year's proceeds will help fund the Emergency Department expansion. Space is limited, an unforgettable evening awaits, tickets go on sale March 2.

Headwaters Hike to Fight Cancer: Lace up and make every step count. The Headwaters Hike aims to raise $60,000 to support life-saving cancer care close to home. On Thursday, October 8, at 5 p.m. choose between a 1 kilometre or 3 kilometre route at the picturesque Caledon Ski Club. All ages welcome! Registration opens April 1. The first to register can win an early bird prize – ski/snowboard passes for four at the Caledon Ski Club, rentals from Skiis & Biikes, and two semi-private lessons (Total prize value: $950).

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.*

Pouring in Positivity:
A Powerful Stress-Management Retreat through Art for People Who Want More Peace
Join us for a unique retreat day combining positivity techniques through the art of Dot painting in the historical village of Alton. The new year is the perfect moment to set gentle, lasting habits — and what could be better than learning simple, practical ways to shift toward more positively.
Learn a powerful and practical stress-relief technique through a beautiful water metaphor.
Discover how to gently and naturally replace negative thoughts with positive ones.
Learn Dot Painting from an experienced artist and create a meaningful artwork that becomes a daily reminder of the calming technique.
Spend a day in a cozy studio in the historic village of Alton
Enjoy a nourishing experience with good food and wonderful company.
Leave feeling lighter, grounded, and inspired.
Date: Sat, Feb 7 from 10 am to 3 pm
Registration fee including art supplies, lunch and snacks: $225
To register, visit https://wholepepperstudio.com/events
Email art@wholepepperstudio.com or call Janine at (519) 496-4008

Albion Bolton Historical Society - Monday, February 9, for a 7:30 PM start, at Rotary Place, 7 Rotarian Way, Bolton, Multi-purpose Room 2. NOTE: NEW MEETING LOCATION. Following a brief AGM there will be a Historical Show & Tell. Members & Guests are asked to bring a local historical item to share with the group. Guests $5.00. Questions: nhillerphoto@bell.net or 905-584-2801 visit us at boltonhistory.com

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Caledon Chamber Concerts presents
Payadora Tango Ensemble
Saturday January 31st at 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall
St. James Anglican Church
6025 Old Church Rd., Caledon East
L7C 1H8
For tickets and more information:
www.CaledonChamberConcerts.com
Or call Janice Reed 905-838-0888

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST and BAKE SALE
Saturday, February 7th from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, fruits, tea, coffee, juice and yoghurt.
Caledon East United Church, 6046 Old Church Rd.
All are welcome!

Tuesday February 10, 2026
Free Bingo Night at 6 pm
Join us for Bingo, Prizes, Pizza and Fun!
To reserve a table call ahead or e-mail us at office@boltonunitedchurch.com or just drop in.
Bolton United Church, 8 Nancy Street, Bolton, L7E 1C7
Ph: 905-857-2615
www.boltonunitedchurch.com



Close 2 Home Caledon obtains charitable status; plans upcoming fundraiser Fashion Blooms

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

After running their non-profit organization for over a year, Close 2 Home Caledon Founders Liana Cancian, Elena Rosati, and Blanca Polanco knew they had to take it to the next level.

They recently obtained charitable status for Close 2 Home Caledon and can now begin officially fundraising for their organization, beginning with their upcoming event, Fashion Blooms.

Close 2 Home Caledon was founded in 2024 by Cancian, Rosati, and Polanco, who all have experienced the challenges of limited housing options in Caledon and insufficient government support for children with special needs.

"There is a massive need for this type of home in Caledon. Currently, something of this capacity, It's very scarce. The waitlist for these special needs adults once they leave university to live in a fully supportive home, is about 15 to 20 years long, that's through the Region of Peel," says Cancian.

She shares that many of these individuals end up living with their parents, who are facing challenges such as aging and financial constraints.

"Not enough funding is allocated to them for them to be able to make these decisions for their kids as to where they're going to go. If a house does come up and is available for them, there's no guarantee that it's going to be local in the community," she adds.

Cancian says they're looking for a fully supported home that could house four to five individuals.

"We need to create a home for these individuals in the community that knows them and loves them and has been with them their whole life – their family and friends," she says.

Upon recently receiving charitable status, Cancian says they were thrilled.

"It makes us a bit more official, and it makes us seem relevant to the community."

When it came to hosting their first fundraiser, Fashion Blooms, Close 2 Home Caledon is all about keeping it local and community-supported.

Cancian says they were originally viewing venues for the event, not in Caledon, to provide them with a bit more space, but she says, "We just kept saying, let's stay focused on the goal. We really want to support the locals."

The fundraiser will be held at the Caesar's Centre in Bolton.

The event will be an afternoon of fashion, shopping, cocktails, and canapes, featuring a runway show, various vendors and entertainment, a silent auction, and much more.

Cancian says that when they were deciding on the theme of their first fundraiser, they realized a majority of those sitting on their committee were women.

"We just thought, why don't we do it as a nice, fun ladies' afternoon event?"

"We all agreed that a fashion event would be fun and a great way to start to open up the spring," she adds.

Alongside their fashion runway show, more than 20 local vendors will be selling beauty, health, wellness, and fashion products.

"We want to be able to support local businesses, support the local vendors. All of our donations are donated from local companies and businesses," says Cancian.

"We really want to promote local. We want these businesses to be able to survive and be sustainable and have all of these wonderful people go back and continue to keep them in business."

The fundraiser will take place on April 19th, and Cancian says they're looking forward to gathering everyone together for the first time.

"I'm looking forward to meeting everybody who has been supporting us all along, thanking everybody for their support, and to have everybody educated on what it is that we are doing," she says.

This event for their organization is about putting Close 2 Home Caledon on the map, and Cancian adds it is an opportunity not only to announce to the community who they are, but to educate and describe the need that exists here in Caledon.

At the event, they will be having conversations about the housing crisis, how Close 2 Home Caledon plans to use the money they raise, and their future plans.

"Just to kind of keep everybody in the loop that this house will come eventually, and if anybody knows anybody that is in the market for housing we would be their contact people," says Cancian. "Just putting it in everybody's mind that there is this out there, that the need is there and this is up and coming."

For those looking to become a vendor, donate a silent auction item, or become a sponsor, can reach out at close2homecaledon@gmail.com

Early-bird tickets for the event go on sale on February 1st and can be purchased online at www.close2homecaledon.ca.

Those looking to attend and support the event can expect an afternoon of fashion and fundraising, and Close 2 Home Caledon hopes you come dressed in your best florals!

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Shifting Resiliency

In today's fast-paced world, it's probably advisable to try and be a bit flexible.

So many things around us are changing and evolving at a pace that is nothing short of breakneck. The rules of the game are constantly being rewritten and it is incumbent upon all of us to try to keep up or risk getting swamped by… well, any number of things presently swirling around our planet that threaten to do just that.

That's not to say we're not a resilient species, if you forgive my using a word we're all thoroughly sick of.

Our collective experience during the Global Pandemic illustrated we had stores of resiliency within ourselves that we otherwise wouldn't have been able to comprehend. By and large, we rolled within whatever punches circumstances had in store for us, and there were probably more punches to roll with than we ever could have envisioned at the outset.

Nevertheless, we did what we could.

Our day-to-day lives experienced a significant shift. Many of us had downtime that allowed for introspection. We were forced to reprioritize so many things in our lives that were once seen of the utmost importance, we had to re-define many of our relationships, what we expected of ourselves, what we expected of others, and we had to re-think just about every aspect of our society that made it functional.

Some of those shifts were practical, some showed general improvement on what was in place previously, some were pale imitations of the so-called "before-times." We went into the "new" with varying degrees of enthusiasm, but a general consensus that this is simply what we had to do – at least for now.

Some of what we were tasked to do were taller orders than others, some shifts which we were told mere months before the first lockdown were impossible.

Prior to the major shutdown, to pick just one example, we were told that it simply wasn't possible under the Ontario Municipal Act for citizen-led advisory committees to be held virtually. The reasons why this was impossible were myriad, although some of the apparent reasons were better than others.

Left without an alternative, the impossible was suddenly very possible and subject of a new structure put in place relatively swiftly, and this model stays with us because, in a twist that was no surprise to anyone, making these committees more accessible and their work more transparent and readily available is a good thing all around.

This new level of engagement is more or less an outlier in some of the COVID concessions that are still with us. We generally kept the shifts that made sense and improved the situation in question, and mercifully went back to time-tested practices in other areas.

Importantly, we were able to exercise critical thought in what made sense, what should stick around, what should be consigned to the history bins, and what rules were worth re-learning.

And the rules are being rewritten every day.

Last week, Prime Minister Mark Carney made a landmark speech at the World Economic Forum which was held by many around the world as a watershed moment in how countries like Canada are working to redefine their respective relationships around the world.

While views on the speech here at home were positive-to-mixed, generally speaking, it was fascinating to see the international reaction to the Prime Minister's words, with so many citing it as a valuable example of international leadership in what is perceived to be a recent leadership vacuum.

"Today, I'll talk about the rupture in the world order, the end of a nice story and the beginning of a brutal reality where geopolitics among the great powers is not subject to any constraints," he began. "But I also submit to you that other countries, particularly middle powers like Canada, are not powerless. They have the capacity to build a new order that embodies our values, like respect for human rights, sustainable development, solidarity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of states.

"The power of the less powerful begins with honesty. It seems that every day we're reminded that we live in an era of great power rivalry. That the rules-based order is fading. That the strong can do what they can, and the weak must suffer what they must…. There is a strong tendency for countries to go along to get along. To accommodate. To avoid trouble. To hope that compliance will buy safety. It won't. So, what are the options?

"We knew the story of the international rules-based order was partially false. That the strongest would exempt themselves when convenient. That trade rules were enforced asymmetrically. And we knew that the international law applied with varying rigour depending on the identity of the accused or the victim. This fiction was useful. And American hegemony, in particular, helped provide public goods: open sea lanes, a stable financial system, collective security, and support for frameworks for resolving disputes. So, we placed the sign in the window. We participated in the rituals. And we largely avoided calling out the gaps between rhetoric and reality. This bargain no longer works."

Carney made a comprehensive case in his speech on why the bargain no longer works, and the importance of protecting yourself when the rules no longer protect you.

The reaction was as swift as it was predictable – Canada being disinvited from participation in the fledgling and questionably-structured Board of Peace and living under threats of 100 per cent tariffs.

It's almost as if certain parties went out of their way to underscore and bolster the point that Carney was making – but it also drove home there's no way to line up a goal if the opposing team keeps moving said goalposts.

While Opposition Leader Pierre Poilievre praised Carney's "eloquence" before going point by point through the speech through the partisan lens, which is his job as Leader of the Opposition, there was some common ground to be found in his response.

"So far, Mr. Carney has been lucky that he's been judged by his rhetoric and his stated intentions, by the number of his trips and meetings overseas," he said. "Because, nearly a year into his term, the rhetoric has changed, but reality has not. There is an illusion of purpose, but no results to back it up.

"We need to do things, not just say them. 'Canada Strong' can no longer be a slogan, nor 'True North Strong and Free' just a motto. We must put our people and country first in all that we do. Then, and only then, we will be autonomous and affordable, secure, and self-reliant.

"…. We are the maters of our fate. We are the captains of our souls. It's time we finally take the wheel – and steer Canada forward with purpose and resolve."

Now that Parliament is back this week, it's time to do just that.

While the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have found general agreement in what the reality is, a surprisingly tall order today, now is a time to for all to come together with purpose and resolve for our collective strength, freedom and, to utter that dreaded word again, resilience.



Shedding the building blocks of life in our tears

by Mark Pavilons



Are the tears that roll down my cheeks when I'm alone filled with all that I am?

Do such small things contain all of my memories and bits of pieces of my life?

Wouldn't it be great to simply pluck a specific memory – like Harry Potter – from a pool of swirling human essence?

Tears are abundant and I think we are all familiar with shedding a few million!

Humans typically produce between 15 to 30 gallons of tears per year in total.

"The most painful tears are not the ones that fall from your eyes and cover your face. They're the ones that fall from your heart and cover your soul."

Tears often accentuate our language and can be a sign of strength, weakness or just a natural release.

Leonardo da Vinci stated they come from the heart; Washington Irving called them a mark of power, and Charles Dickens saw them as "cleansing rain."

Tears, according to Rumi, are "the ink with which the soul writes what the heart cannot say."

Most people agree that tears speak much more than words – they are silent, but powerful and yet tender.

It's also proof that we're human, and haven't succumbed to numbness or the bitterness of the world. Perhaps, a single tear rolling down a cheek proves there's still something within us worth saving.

I am curious as to what tears contain, chemically, and whether they can used to further our species, even longevity.

DNA, the blueprint of life, is a fascinating molecule that holds the key to our identity. It carries our genetic information, making us who we are.

While DNA is commonly extracted from blood, saliva, and hair, researchers have explored whether tears also contain trace amounts of genetic material. Studies suggest that tears do in fact carry minimal DNA.

DNA is contained in almost every cell of the human body. These cells, which form the various tissues and organs, carry our genetic information.

Scientific studies have shown that tears do contain DNA, primarily from the shed cells of the eye's surface. However, the concentration of DNA in tears is relatively low compared to other bodily fluids like blood or saliva.

Scientists have successfully extracted DNA from both fresh and old tear stains. And even tiny tear samples have yielded usable DNA profiles.

The composition of your tears changes depending on what's making you cry.

Eureka!

I'm sure we've all cried heavy, heart-breaking, sorrow-filled tears; tears of joy, and "Hallmark movie" tears.

I'm not suggesting we collect and store jars of our own juices, just in case the technology arises when we can be "reborn." It's a bit icky, but apparently some decent DNA, combined with a healthy ovum can recreate "Mark." Something for my family to consider. (And yes, I'm laughing at this comment.)

When we disappear from this earthly existence, very little remains. Our soul hopefully zips on to the next life or plateau. What's left is a rather unpleasant lump of flesh, a vessel that once had a name, a life, a family, a career, a purpose, even a few friends.

Some of us worry about departing and just how that journey will be. I am tempted to ask my oncologist the age-old question: What happens when I die?

I'm not sure what response that would elicit, but I'll bet it will put her off guard.

Right here, right now, I can adequately describe this person – me – in my head.

I'm a husband, father and have people who love me. They care about me not because of my accomplishments or what I've accumulated over the decades.

They love me because of my sense of humour, laugh, devotion, strength (and weakness).

They've seen me at my best and very worst. They will witness my last, long walk.

And that makes me sad. Not just taking the final fork in the road, but leaving them all behind to grieve. It will hurt, and hurt and hurt, until it doesn't.

I've been there, after losing all my original family members.

Modern science is constantly working on transferring our thoughts and perhaps "souls" into computer chips, USB drives, even robots.

Being a science fiction fan, I've seen many of these themes in movies. Some work, but often something goes awry.

"Don't be ashamed to weep; 'tis right to grieve. Tears are only water, and flowers, trees, and fruit cannot grow without water. But there must be sunlight also," said Brian Jacques.

Ah yes, the dichotomy of our existence.

Good and bad, positive and negative, yin and yang, light and darkness, heaven and earth.

Confucius once said, "the interplay of opposite principles constitutes the universe."

And so it is, swirling, dancing, performing, playing out some unimaginable cosmic stage play.

And we are merely players, Shakespeare said, and "They have their exits and their entrances ... "And one man in his time plays many parts ..."

Just what is the final role, a role that summarizes a lifetime? When the curtain begins to drop, do we scurry like rodents, or stand firm, delivering our boisterous, final soliloquy?

"For in that sleep of death what dreams may come...

"When we have shuffled off this mortal coil ..."

In my tear-filled performance, I hope to be yanked off stage by that large, shepherd's hook, for some ill-time joke or off-colour remark. I want to laugh and cough and cry all at the same time, leaving my DNA behind!

After all, tears meant to be shed.



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SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



ROMA "Grins and Gripes"

First, I'd like to apologize for the additional deluge of snow received this past Sunday. Clearly my griping about snow last week resulted in a Mother Nature "hold my beer" moment, resulting in yet more snow. Unlike Mother Nature's payback, let's hope today's column of "grins and gripes" doesn't result in yet more truck traffic or illegal trucking yards, and instead results in things like more truck restrictions, more aggregate restrictions and more - well - grins, not gripes. We might even talk a bit about ROMA.

First, a "grin." Mayor Groves announced on social media recently that Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Rob Flack confirmed at ROMA that "legislation addressing illegal land use and trucking will be tabled when the Legislature resumes this spring." Hallelujah, though I do wish we didn't need to wait another nine weeks for the legislature to resume sitting! Currently, we have an outrageous 1,300+ complaints related to illegal land use and unauthorized parking and storage of tractor-trailers. We have companies seeking to be zoned into compliance after already parking their trucks illegally on agricultural lands for years, and all of this is happening while the Town has few enforcement tools, an inability to collect the more than $580,000 in fines it's owed, and it deals with operators who treat these municipal fines and any related legal fees as simply the cost of doing business. So, we're in crisis and need this legislation sooner than later. It's good news, but I do have just one small "gripe."

With Mayor Groves calling this a "result of strong collaboration and advocacy," why did the announcement give credit to only some of Caledon Council? This was a golden opportunity for the Mayor to celebrate a win for all of Caledon Council and the hard work each and every member has undertaken to support resident concerns and address illegal trucking related activity. That those thanked were the same Councillors often on the "winning" side of 5-4 council votes was just a coincidence, I guess.

Still on the "grin side," ROMA itself was one of the best attended in years. The Rural Ontario Municipal Association is one of the few times Mayors and other Council members, from across the province, are able to come together to share common concerns. Right now, such concerns are significant and include not just illegal truck yards but illegal truck licensing, too.

Provincial expectations for significant housing growth in many of our rural communities (including Caledon), aggressive aggregate expansion attempts, and lack of infrastructure support (through provincial dollars) are all examples of issues that many municipalities are grappling with, but which require provincial support to help manage. The cumulative voice of the record-breaking attendance at ROMA will hopefully amplify these shared concerns. Almost 2,300 delegates attended the conference, representing 316 municipalities resulting in 651 delegation meetings held between 250 municipalities and 25 provincial ministers or associate ministers. By the numbers alone, one has reason to hope that progress is possible.

Also on the agenda was a new standardized Code of Conduct and Integrity Commissioner (IC) process, something that Caledon could sorely use given all the current griping related to very real concerns with our current process and IC. How to get accurate information to residents (specifically in an age of social media disinformation) was a hot button topic as was something else Caledon can relate to: rural road safety. According to one statistic shared, 17% of the population of Ontario live in rural municipalities, but 55% of road fatalities happen in them. As Caledon residents we know all too well, using our roads, ill-equipped for the volume of truck traffic sharing them, we are a part of that dismal statistic.

Finally, in other news – more grins, and honestly, no griping this time. A recent delegation to Peel Regional Council concerning truck traffic in Ward One was heard favourably. Certainly, all wards are experiencing significant and dangerous levels of truck traffic, in part because some roads have been designated as Strategic Goods Movement Networks (meaning any large truck can use them) when they are not designed nor fit to do so. Caledon East, Caledon Village, Alton and Bolton (specifically portions of the Highway 50 corridor) are all areas of concern and new restrictions are about to be put in place for at least some of them.

For a trial period of one year, time of day and weekend restrictions will be implemented, monitored and measured to assess impact. Further, after the delegation (by Dwayne Jackson representing the AVA in Ward One) Regional Council agreed to move up the trial period by six months, recognizing the significant concerns of the community.

Mayor Groves commented that it was "the right thing to do," and Councillor Early supported the motion while also drawing attention to the need for an effective communications plan to trucking companies and their drivers to ensure compliance.

I'll end not with a "gripe" per say, but a disheartening observation.

While watching the Regional Council meeting, one final comment came through loud and clear. Chair Nando Iannica remarked that recently he learned over one billion dollars in goods are shipped across Canada each day, but in Peel Region alone, that number is two billion! Yes – "billion," not "million." That means our local roads are home to volumes of previously unseen levels of freight traffic, navigating roads never designed for them in the first place. What's more, aggregate truck traffic (and a potential new blasting quarry) will only add to this unprecedented volume. Worse still, neither freight nor aggregate companies are paying anywhere near their fair share in taxes or levies to cover the cost of road repairs they are disproportionately causing.

It's great that ROMA this year appears to be showing signs of some potential results of the cumulative advocacy of all Caledon Council members. However, when you drive our roads, witness what's happening all around us, and learn more about the challenges so many municipalities are facing, (and the legislature won't return til March 23rd) you'd be forgiven for thinking "it's no wonder we are in crisis."

Bolton Community Crew holds Valentine's Day Door Decorating Contest

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Bolton Community Crew is inviting residents and businesses all across Caledon to decorate their doors this Valentine's Day.

Those who enter the contest have a chance to win 1st, 2nd, or a 3rd place prizes for their "Best Dressed Doors."

Sarah Leslie with the Bolton Community Crew (BCC) explains the contest originally began during the pandemic, while everyone was in lockdown.

"Mostly because we had to halt all community events, we thought this to be a creative way to bring the community together during a time where we couldn't be together physically," she says.

Councillor Tony Rosa was part of the innovation process for this initiative and shares they were really trying to come up with things people could do from the comfort of their home.

They eventually came up with the door-decorating contest, a way for people to show their love for their community and the Town.

"Creating that building unity and community feel," he explains.

This year, many residents brought it to their attention to resurrect the idea again, he says.

In sitting down with the BCC, they discussed turning it into a community-wide decorating contest, a Town-wide initiative for all residents and businesses.

With the wintry weather Caledon has been experiencing, this door decorating contest is a sure-fire way to stay involved with your community, without leaving your front door, or maybe just stepping outside it.

"It's a very cold winter," says Rosa. "Even now we're having to stay home during these storms. Here's a great activity to resurrect and hope we get the engagement that we're looking for and that people from across Caledon, from every ward, will submit their entries."

Rosa says this initiative is about creating unity across the community and for people to have some fun with their families.

He hopes for this to become an annual tradition in Caledon, he adds.

"I am so honored to see that people enjoyed it the first time and that they're still talking about it today, and what a great way to bring back something in these cold days of winter."

"If people are open to making this an annual event, by all means," he says. "It's a wonderful way of engaging the community and it's a great message."

In previous contests, Leslie says that they received more than 200 submissions, and they're hoping to see submissions coming in soon for this year's competition.

When it comes to the judging, the BCC will be looking for creativity and "outside the box" ideas.

Rosa and his daughter will be taking their own stab at this year's contest, soon to be decorating their own door.

The contest ends on February 13, and the winners will have their prizes hand-delivered on February 14 by the Community Crew's very own "Queen of Hearts."

The Bolton Community Crew is asking that participants send their pictures and full address to boltonmidnightmadness@gmail.com.

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Nominations are now open!

Each year in June, the Town names a Caledon resident the Senior of the Year.
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BUSINESS

YOUR SOURCE FOR BUSINESS IN CALEDON

Caledon Chamber of Commerce presents 2026 Goals and Initiatives

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Caledon Chamber of Commerce recently held its Kick-Off Event for the new year, focused on connection, celebration, and showcasing what's ahead for the Chamber.

As the year begins, the Chamber is prioritizing feedback, saying that input helps them understand the real challenges local businesses are facing, and the issues that matter most to businesses are being heard.

Their recently-announced Caledon Business Challenges survey will collect feedback from the business community in Caledon to share with local Members of Parliament and Town officials.

Not only will this feedback go to these individuals, but the Chamber also notes that it shapes future Chamber priorities and advocacy efforts.

They are also hosting a member roundtable in February, which is "an opportunity for deeper discussion and idea-sharing."

The new year for the Chamber of Commerce brings changes to its networking opportunities.

This year, they are structuring their events to maximize member value and reduce event fatigue.

Marion Upshall, President of the Caledon Chamber of Commerce, says that fewer events create a stronger impact, "focused on quality meaningful engagement, speakers, and venues."

Upcoming big events for the Chamber throughout the year include Caledine, their Mental Health Awareness Forum, the Business Summit and Excellence Awards, and finally their Christmas Market.

Each of these events, says the Chamber, are designed to drive visibility, connection and impact.

Caledine is held to drive traffic and awareness to local food businesses, and it occurs during the universally slowest times for restaurants, explains Upshall.

Their mental health awareness forum prioritizes workplace wellness for both employers and employees.

The Business Summit, which welcomed back the Excellence Awards in 2025, is focused on education, inspiration, and recognition.

And finally, the Christmas Market, which closes out the year, showcases local businesses through virtual and live experiences.

One of the key elements of the Chambers year in focus is "Caledon Connection."

During their presentation, Upshall noted the Chamber is looking to connect all of Caledon, not just one part.

To do so, they will host Ward Held Events, networking events held in different wards, to ensure they reach every corner of Caledon.

The Chamber is also currently focusing on future initiatives such as their Dragon's Den-style pitches for local high school students, encouraging entrepreneurial thinking at a young age.

Caledon OPP was also in attendance, presenting their new Community Business Engagement (CBE) Initiative.

The initiative not only highlighted the strong partnership between the Chamber and Caledon OPP but also reinforced the idea that the Chamber serves as a hub for community-wide collaboration.





Drew Wettlaufer received the award from Maurice Guimont (right) of Walker Aggregates and a board member of OSSGA. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local company receives Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association 2025 Safety Innovation Award

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Sand and Gravel Inc., with James Dick Construction Ltd, was recently awarded the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (OSSGA) 2025 Safety Innovation Award.

This award, says the OSSGA, recognizes forward-thinking solutions that raise the bar for safety performance in Ontario's aggregate sector.

Caledon Sand and Gravel received the award for their Rock Truck Dump Hopper Risk Assessment.

"This innovative initiative demonstrates exceptional leadership in identifying site-specific hazards and implementing practical, effective controls that enhance employee safety across aggregate operations," says the OSSGA.

They also shared that the assessment stood out to them for its proactive approach, clear methodology and measurable impact on improving on-site safety practices.

"OSSGA's Safety Innovation Award recognizes members' creativity in enhancing workplace safety through innovative practices in health and safety systems, training, employee wellness and company culture. Caledon Sand and Gravel showed that their initiatives not only reduce risk but also deliver measurable results that protect employees, subcontractors and the public. Congratulations and thank you for putting safety first," said Sharon Armstrong, Executive Director of OSSGA.

Matt McDonald, Occupational Health and Safety Manager with James Dick Construction Ltd, shares that the risk assessment began in January of 2025, and their goal was to assess the risk around the rock truck dump hopper for the purpose of identifying, assessing and controlling hazards and potential hazards.

They had multiple safety measures in place beforehand, but they wanted to make it full proof to avoid any possibility of anything falling into the hopper.

At the start of this initiative, McDonald says there were many elements to consider, one of which was to comply with Section 59 of Ontario Regulation 854, saying that all openings, sumps, vessels, bins, hoppers, elevated platforms or pits other than grease pits, which constitute a hazard, must be fenced or otherwise guarded.

They also considered various potential hazards with the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

McDonald says they began with the worst-case scenario and worked backwards from that.

A lot of what needed to be done, he says, they had previously implemented. Following that, they "went through the list of all the different potential hazards and tried to check off each one of those to get a safeguard for each danger."

Following their hazard assessment, numerous changes were made, including installing a gate to prevent inadvertent access when the crusher was not in production and raising, berming, and signing the Hopper area to allow only authorized personnel.

Among the many new additions, they designed a new traffic control plan to address traffic and define the authorized access area, updated the Job Task Procedure, made necessary changes to the hopper, and more.

Their team analyzed every possibility, from equipment potentially overriding the berm and ending up in the hopper, to everyone's safety on the property.

"When you talk about it afterwards, it seems really simple. But at the time, it was for the industry a change in doing things," says McDonald.

"We're rethinking how to do it differently, and I know other companies had installed gates, but it didn't take away the hazard when we're running and operating," he added.

These Rock Truck Dump Hoppers, McDonald explains, are a behind-the-scenes part of materials in people's everyday lives.

"For everything from your driveway, to the screenings that may be between interlock brick, to whatever it may be, we have to take those big rocks and make them small. The rock trucks are carrying the big rocks, we dump them into a hopper and it goes into a crusher. Then it's fed on a conveyor to another crusher…whatever it may be to make the products that you might not even see that are out there that you use every day," says McDonald. "That's why it's important."

He shares that their risk assessments are done and updated annually, and now he says, they've made it "bulletproof."

McDonald says that at Caledon Sand and Gravel, "it's everybody looking out for everybody else."

He says many of those working at the Caledon location have been there for many years and have become "a band of brothers and sisters."

McDonald adds the award presentation with OSSGA was "wonderful."

Drew Wettlaufer, the Joint Health and Safety Committee Worker Representative who worked with Caledon Sand and Gravel on the assessment, received the award, and McDonald said he could tell everyone was proud of what they had achieved.

"For me, being the health and safety manager, it's so nice to watch them," says McDonald. "It's a super feeling."

Town to request advocacy support from TAPMO

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

At Caledon's January 27 Council Meeting, Council unanimously supported a motion to request support from the Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities of Ontario (TAPMO) to seek amendments to provincial aggregate-related planning policies.

The motion, brought forward by Councillors Lynn Kiernan and Christina Early, shares that with the Town's high concentrations of aggregate resources and operations, it has resulted "in sustained and cumulative impacts on municipal infrastructure, rural communities, agricultural lands, sensitive water resources, and local air quality."

It states that Caledon Council has repeatedly raised concerns that provincial aggregate policies "do not adequately protect groundwater, surface water, air quality, public health, or community well-being in municipalities hosting significant aggregate activity."

Under existing provincial policy frameworks, the motion discusses that certain residents' needs are not being addressed, where residents are experiencing problems living near aggregate operations.

It argues that municipalities with an immense share of aggregate activity should not bear long-term environmental, health, social, and financial burdens without strengthened provincial policy tools and safeguards.

The Official Plan Amendment No. 1 (OPA 1) is said to be "constrained by current provincial policy direction and does not provide sufficient municipal authority to address cumulative environmental, health, and social impacts associated with aggregate extraction and transportation."

Therefore, Council is seeking TAPMO's advocacy support.

TAPMO is an association representing aggregate-rich municipalities that is committed to working with industry partners and provincial decision-makers to develop a long-term, practical approach to aggregate extraction in Ontario.

With this advocacy support, Council hopes to seek strengthened provincial and municipal policy authority to:

Prioritize the protection of groundwater, surface water, and hydrologically sensitive area features, including source water and recharge areas;

Strengthen requirements related to air quality, dust mitigation, and monitoring to protect public health;

Recognize and regulate the cumulative environmental, health, and social impacts of multiple aggregate operations and associated haul traffic;

Safeguard agricultural lands and rural settlement areas from incompatible land uses;

Require enforceable haul route planning, road maintenance, and full recovery of infrastructure costs; and

Better align aggregate extraction with growth planning, climate resilience, and long-term municipal sustainability.

This advocacy support request would be circulated to TAPMO member municipalities.

A written correspondence attached to the Council meeting agenda showed that on January 16th, Mayor Annette Groves wrote to Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones asking for her intervention and "that changes may be made to ensure local perspectives are adequately captured."

"Caledon Council is disappointed and disheartened that OPA 1 was approved without regard to the motion I tabled. This has a huge impact on our community. The local voice has been diminished and it appears that a "one size fits all" approach has been applied with respect to conformity with certain provincial policies," wrote Mayor Groves in the attached letter.

She continued that the concern is that the modifications to OPA 1 dismiss the local lived experience.

Continued on Page A17

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Allain and Freeman notch hat tricks in Admirals' dramatic 7-5 comeback victory in Oakville



Caledon's Jack Fang (91) faces off against Burlington's Vasily Serov (77) in OJHL third period action on Thursday night. Serov's two-goal effort led the Cougars to a 7 – 3 win over the Admirals. `

PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

BY JIM STEWART

When it counted most, Clarence Allain and Curtis Freeman delivered six goals for the Caledon Admirals with the OJHL squad's playoff hopes on the line.

Trailing 4-1 in the first period in a must-win game, the Admirals' Dynamic Duo catalyzed and completed a shocking comeback with a pair of hat tricks to down the Oakville Blades 7-5 on Saturday night at the Sixteen Mile Sports Complex.

The Admirals took to the spacious 200 x 100' ice surface in Oakville and opened the scoring when Allain tallied his 11th of the season 4:45 into the first period.

However, things went sideways for the visitors as the Blades fired four goals in eight minutes to take a 4-1 lead on consecutive goals by Tyler Le Conte, Brady Charlton, Ben Austin, and Evan Le Conte.

Freeman's timely marker with 1:05 left in the first frame stopped the surgery being performed by the Blades and cut the home side's lead to 4-2.

Cam Lang's 17th of the season, assisted by Freeman and Nate Brentnell, pulled the Admirals to within one at 14:37 of the middle frame and Allain's power play goal less than two minutes later tied the game heading into the second intermission.

The Admirals put the finishing touches on their masterful and spirited comeback in the final frame when they outscored the hosts 3-1.

The third period outburst secured a precious regulation win and kept Caledon within seven points of the King Rebellion for the final playoff spot in the OJHL West.

Freeman gave The Fleet its first lead of the game when he finished Lang's feed while the trustworthy veterans were on the PK at 11:13.

Oakville's Ben Austin responded to Caledon's short-handed goal by tying the game 5-5 34-seconds later, but Freeman completed his hat trick, with helpers from Lang and Captain Braeden Van Gelder, at 15:04 to restore the Admirals' lead.

Van Gelder earned his third assist of the game with 25 seconds left on the clock when he fed Allain, who deposited the puck into an empty net, secured his hat trick, sealed the victory, and preserved the Admirals' playoff aspirations.

The Admirals' most significant victory of the season on Saturday came after a disappointing 7-3 home ice loss to the sixth-place Burlington Cougars on Thursday night.

The red-hot Burlington squad rode a four-game winning streak into the Garth Young Arena, including a 3-2 OT decision over the top-ranked Toronto Patriots last Friday.

Burlington Captain and leading scorer Reid Forster delineated the keys to victory: "I thought we matched their intensity tonight. Our PK was good and we played the right way."

Playing the right way has been a benchmark recently for the Cougars and Forster explained how his club defeated the Patriots last Friday to extend their winning streak.

"Everyone has bought in defensively. They're a great team offensively, so to hold them to two goals was an accomplishment for us."

Forster, a very mobile defender who has accrued 36 points this season, underscored the importance of his team's win on Thursday.

"It was big. We have a back-to-back this week so winning the first one on the road against Caledon was important for us. It sets us up for our home game against Georgetown tomorrow."

The Cougars looked ready for Georgetown, based on their strong performance against the Admirals.

Eight minutes into the first period, the navy blue-clad visitors took a 1-0 lead when 6'3", 207-pound centre Vasily Serov created space off the left wing and snapped a shot from between the circles that beat Admirals' goalie James Meredith high blocker side. Serov was acquired this month from the Pickering Panthers and has scored 12 points in the 8 games he has played for Burlington.

Serov's looming presence was evident all night, but it was the speed of the Cougars that created their next two goals to kick off the second period.

On the prettiest goal of the game 1:05 into the middle frame, a nifty passing play by Colin Ronalds and Ethan Brassard gave the Cougars a two-goal lead. The speedy skaters turned a two-on-one into a sharp give-and-go play with Brassard sliding the perfect pass from Ronalds past Meredith just off the right edge of the crease.

Forster complimented his teammates' important goal and their instant connection on the ice: "It was a beautiful play – Ronalds's great pass and Brassard finished so well. It was only their second shift together. It was automatic chemistry."

The Cougars not only showed team chemistry at Mayfield, but they also demonstrated a propensity for leaking forwards into the neutral zone on the PK. The ploy worked perfectly two minutes after Brassard's marker when Matthew Campanella got behind the Admirals' D corps, created a breakaway, deked Meredith, and slid the puck glove side to give the visitors a 3-0 lead.

The home side opened the third period aggressively. Their urgent forechecking paid off when Cole Kirton's wrist shot from between the circles flew past the glove of Cougars' netminder Carter Vicente at 1:15. Kirton's 10th goal of the season reduced the visitors' lead to 3-1.

However, the Cougars scored four consecutive goals in less than five minutes before the midway point of the final frame to put the game away.

Alain banged in his own rebound to tally his 10th with 5:51 of the final frame to make it 7-2. Hard-hitting Admiral Jalen Lobo notched his first of the season on the power play with 2:16 on the clock to close the scoring.

Mono Nordic Ski Club hosts annual cross-country race

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Mono Nordic Ski Club hosted its annual cross-country race along the trails at Monora Park in Mono on Saturday, January 24.

This popular event brings competitors from across the province who earn points for Nordic and cross-country skiing competitions in the Southern Ontario Paraffin Race Series. This includes racers from various clubs, universities, and high schools.

The snowy weather this year provided excellent conditions with plenty of snow and well-groomed trails along the challenging course.

Founded in 1985, the Mono Nordic Ski Club is celebrating 40 years as an organization and has hosted ski races every year since it began.

Nordic and cross-country skiing are popular sports across the province, and the Mono Nordic Ski Club has an enthusiastic membership that enjoys getting out on the trails during the winter months.

"We have 20 different teams here from Nordic clubs, high schools including ODSS and Mayfield, and university teams from Guelph, McMaster, and Waterloo, as well as lots of ski clubs from all over southern Ontario who come and race," explained event co-organizer René Beukeboom. "Our youngest competitors are U8, and we go up to the Masters division."

Competitors compete in age groups, with the distance increasing as age increases.

The youngest competitors race a 1.5 km course. At the U18, U20, and masters divisions, racers compete on a 6 km course.

"We have over 170 racers today," Beukeboom explained. "There is an interval start, so as a division, each racer starts 15 seconds apart. This year we did the order backwards and started with the older kids first, with the hope that the day warms up in the afternoon for the younger kids."

With the interval start, racers must rely on their own instincts to judge their pace on the course.

The temperature for the day was -15°C, as the race happened to take place in the current cold snap.

The course becomes quite challenging at the longer distances, as the trails have many hills and push racers to their limits to keep a good pace.

A lot of spectators turned out for the day to cheer on the racers and provided a lot of encouragement as the competitors sprinted down the final 100 yards to the finish.

Organizers would like to thank the local businesses that donated door prizes: Barley Vine Rail Co., BMP Group, Booklore, Dave's Butcher Shop, Global Pet Foods, Moguls in Mocean, and Orangeville Nissan.





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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Borscevski and Dhindsa shift focus from dream soccer excursion in Rome to winning Ontario Cup

BY JIM STEWART

Caledon U16 soccer players Chester Borscevski and Arjun Dhindsa are back from an "experience of a lifetime" in Rome, Italy.

Borscevski and Dhindsa—who play for the Caledon-based soccer academy SSE90—participated in camps and exhibition games on North America's Serie A elite team from December 13-20 in Rome. They were selected back in the Fall through Rome City Institute ID camps and only 18 players across Canada and the USA were chosen for the travel team.

Both players were proudly sporting their SSE90 warmups prior to their Thursday evening practice at the Mayfield Dome.

Borscevski, a Grade 10 student at Mayfield Secondary School, thought the highlight of the excursion was "playing against the other top teams in Italy."

"We played Lazio in our first game and lost 5-2. In the second game, I scored a game-winning header against Ascoli Calcio."

Dhindsa, a Grade 10 student at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School, agreed about the level of play and alluded to his teammate's decisive goal as well as the team's big 3-2 win in Italy.

"In the last game, we won with a big play at the end."

Both were proud to represent their local club and Canada on the North American team that competed against one of the top soccer nations on Earth.

Dhindsa observed, "It felt great. Chester and I were the only two players selected in Canada."

Borscevski's competitive streak emerged in our interview when he described the significance of his team's victory over Ascoli Calcio.

"It was pretty important. Our coach is Italian and we were playing his team. The Italians thought we weren't as good. We showed them we could play just as well. They shouldn't have been so surprised."

All of the squad's games and practices took place in pristine facilities. Dhindsa described them as "Amazing—all the fields were well-kept. We played on grass which is different than when we play here which is more on turf."

Borscevski was impressed by "where we stayed. We'd get up in the morning and we could walk on to the practice field. We'd be right there."

Dhindsa enjoyed "walking around Rome as a team. The pizza was amazing, too" and Borscevski thought it was "cool watching AS Roma against Como at Stadio Olimpico at the biggest stadium."

Back home, both student-athletes believe their rep soccer team has what it takes to win the provincial championship this season.

Their SSE90 squad has achieved success during the indoor season and is preparing for big games both indoors and outdoors in 2026.

Dhindsa noted, "We made the second round of the Ontario Cup this month and we won a big game against Juventus on Tuesday. Our team goal is to win the Ontario Cup."

Borscevski expressed confidence in his team's chances to win the prestigious tourney: "Chances are good that we can win. We'll be playing FCT in the final—a really good team from Etobicoke. We've played against them a few times."

Borscevski—a productive forward—added that his personal goal this season is to repeat as "the team's top scorer." Dhindsa—a skilled defender who takes pride in shutting down the opponent's top scorers—has offensive goals of his own: "I want to be a top three scorer on the team."

With the Dynamic Duo of Borscevski scoring goals and Dhindsa preventing goals, it appears that Caledon's SSE90 has the core talent to strive for and win their fair share in 2026.

TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley hosts First Responders Appreciation Family Skate with Boots on the Ground

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Freezing temperatures didn't stop the Caledon Community from celebrating our First Responders this past weekend.

In collaboration with Boots on the Ground, a non-profit peer support organization for First Responders, TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley hosted a First Responders Appreciation Family Skate where attendees could not only enjoy the brand-new rink at Osprey Valley but also meet our local First Responders.

Emergency vehicles were available for the public to tour, and First Responders were seen skating alongside various First Responder Mascots, such as Caledon's very own Sparky!

"It was wonderful to see people brave the cold and come out to enjoy the day. We had a large contingent of firefighters, paramedics, police officers and others from the first responder community along with their families enjoying the skating rink, firepits and hot chocolates," says Brian Decker, Director of Marketing and Communications with TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley.

In attendance that day were representatives from Caledon Fire, Peel Paramedics, the OPP, Crime Stoppers, and Boots on the Ground.

Boots on the Ground's mission is to provide anonymous, confidential, caring and compassionate peer support to First Responders across the Province of Ontario.

They operate an anonymous helpline providing confidential and anonymous peer support to First Responders across the province, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"There's a lot of admiration from our team for the work the Boots on the Ground organization does as a peer support resource for first responders," says Decker.

He shares that their goal was to raise awareness of the organization's work, along with creating a fun, community-focused atmosphere where the public could come out and enjoy the skating rink and outdoor amenities.

"We have really enjoyed hosting events like these at our skating rink this winter. When we initially put plans together to build the skating rink, it was very important to us that we create something that people in our community could come out and enjoy. We've received great feedback from events like the First Responders Appreciation Day and expect we'll continue to host events like this going forward," says Decker.



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- Virtual interview formats are available upon request.
- This position is subject to budget and grant approval and thus may be subject to change.

Qualified candidates are invited to apply no later than **12 p.m. on February 20, 2026**. Please email your resume and cover letter to Shannon McGrady, CEO, at smcgrady@shelburnelibrary.ca . Please note that only those who are selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Shelburne Public Library is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodations are available for all parts of the recruitment process, and applicants are asked to make their needs known in advance.

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CAROL DIANNE AGAR (ATKINSON)

OCTOBER 12, 1947 - JANUARY 21, 2026



Carol Dianne Agar (Atkinson) passed away peacefully on January 21, 2026, at the age of 78 at Headwaters Healthcare Centre in Orangeville, surrounded by her loved ones.

Carol was born on October 12, 1947, to Harold and Lois Atkinson and is survived by her brother Robert and sister Helen (Dave). She will be greatly missed by her beloved husband of 54 years, Paul, her children Deborah (Steve) and Michael (Dana). Beloved grandmother to Cassidy, Quinton, and Alexis. Much-loved sister-in-law to Linda, Carl (Ruth), Darlene (Jim), and Dianne (Hugh). She will be greatly missed by her many extended family members, neighbours, and friends.

Carol was a lifelong resident of Grand Valley, working in the Royal Bank for over 35 years, volunteering with the firefighters' ladies' auxiliary, horticulture club, figure skating club, and countless other community organizations. An active member of Knox Presbyterian Church and friend to all she met, Carol was at her happiest while contributing to the community and helping others.

The family would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the compassionate care that was given to Carol during her illness from Groves Memorial Community Hospital's oncology department, Grand River Hospital Cancer Centre, Guelph General Hospital, and Headwaters Healthcare Centre, not to mention the many friends and family that helped her and our family along the way.

A Celebration of Carol's Life will take place at In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. (28 Main Street North, Grand Valley ON), on Saturday January 31st, 2026, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Words of Remembrance will take place at 12:00 pm.

Online condolences can be made at www.imfunerals.com

In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. has been given the honour of serving the Agar Family.

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ILEEN DOREEN BRAY (NÉE EDWARDS)



Ileen Doreen Bray (née Edwards) passed away peacefully at Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care in Shelburne, Ontario, on Monday, January 19, 2026. A woman of remarkable strength, dedication, and spirit, Ileen lived a full life spanning over a century.

Born on October 15, 1924, Ileen was the cherished daughter of the late Albert and Myrtle (Simpson) Edwards. She was also predeceased by her loving husband Harold Bray (1927–1994), her brother James Edwards and her infant sister Margaret Edwards.

Ileen had an exemplary career in education serving as an elementary school teacher, predominantly with the Peel District School Board, for 41 years. Her career began in the era of one-room and multi-room schoolhouses, where her unwavering dedication, love and concern for the children left a lasting impact on generations of students—some of whom maintained contact with her throughout her long life.

Beyond the classroom, Ileen possessed an extraordinary work ethic. For many years, she balanced her professional life with milking cows both before and after each school day. In her retirement years, Ileen was an independent businesswoman who owned investment rental properties.

In Ileen's personal life, her distinguishing characteristic was her love of stylish, timeless dress and immaculate appearance.

She had a lifelong love for dancing and enjoyed dressing up for a night on the dance floor. At home she found comforting companionship in her beloved cat, Missy.

Ileen will be deeply missed by her treasured cousins: Donna Edwards, Carolyn (Dave) Priest, Connie (Charlie) Grant, Gaylia (Bruce) Roffey, Jackie (Bruce) Hart, Don (Fran) Graham, and their families; as well as her dear friend and former colleague Noreen Lightheart.

In keeping with Ileen's wishes, cremation has taken place. A private graveside service will take place in the spring in Chatham, Ontario.

Ileen's family and her friend Noreen wish to express their deepest gratitude to the medical team, staff and caregivers at Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care. Their extraordinary compassion, dedicated care, and dignity they afforded Ileen during her time with them provided great comfort to her and her loved ones. In lieu of flowers, donations made in Ileen's memory to Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care in Shelburne, Ontario, or to a charity of your choice, would be appreciated.

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

TREVOR STRIKE



It is with great sadness that our brother, Trevor Strike of Orangeville, passed away suddenly on January 9th at 62 years old.

He was a skilled Locksmith who took pride in his work and was known for his reliability, patience and willingness to help others. He approached his trade with care and integrity, always doing his best to make people feel safe and supported.

Outside of work, Trevor enjoyed golfing, finding enjoyment on the course with his friends. He was also an animal lover at heart, known for his compassion and kindness toward animals, especially his many dogs he had over the years.

In his younger years, he attended North Grenville District high school and was an avid hockey player, enjoyed his cars and motorbikes.

He is survived by his brother Richard Strike (Pam), sister Karen Froome, Nieces Christine, Angie, Katie, Kayla and Chelsea. He was preceded by his parents, Ken and Gwyn Strike and brother-in-law Greg Froome.

He will be remembered by his generosity and the quiet ways he showed love. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

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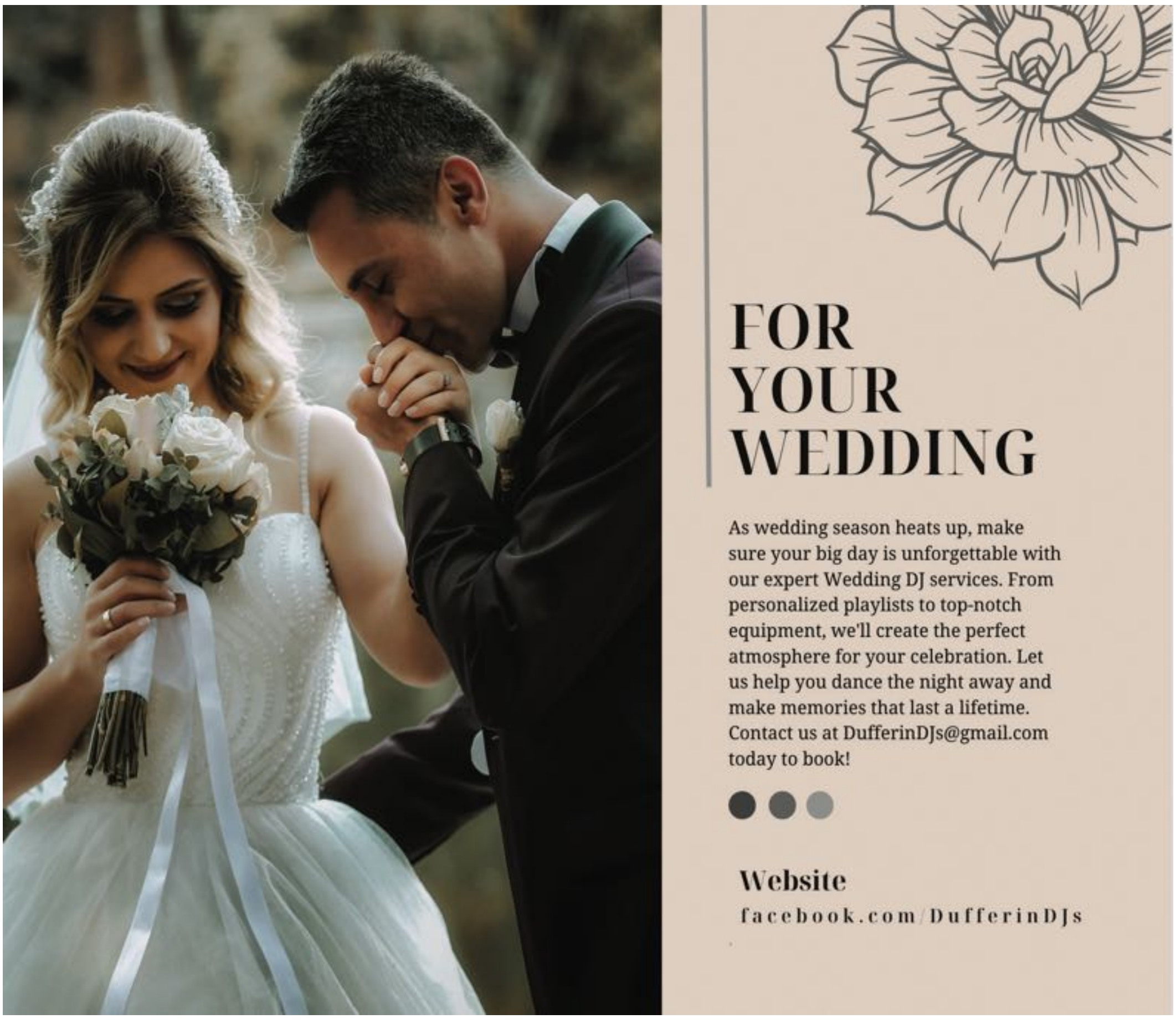
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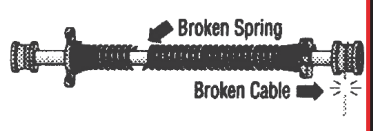
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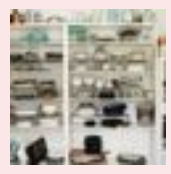
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Caledon commemorates No. 2 Construction Battalion with memorial plaques



Town of Caledon Staff, Caledon OPP, and Caledon Fire and Emergency Services pose with the plaque. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Continued from FRONT

Although they were not willing to allow battalions to accept Black soldiers, their consideration instead was to form a labour battalion, a service urgently needed on the Front Lines.

It wasn't until 1916 that the No. 2 Construction Battalion was authorized as a labour battalion.

In both 1920 and 1926, the Battalion was commemorated at the Provincial Legislature in Toronto, but it wasn't until 1992 that the Government of Canada recognized the story of the Battalion as a national historic event.

In 2022, then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, along with the Minister of National Defence Anita Anand, issued a National Apology to the families and descendants of No. 2 Construction Battalion by the Government of Canada.

"Although they were assigned non-combat roles, the work carried out was a success of Canada's wartime efforts. Throughout their service, these men endured ongoing challenges including inadequate rations, equipment, housing, and medical care, hardships no one should have faced," said Groves. "When the war ended, they returned home without the recognition, honour, or support."

MPP for Dufferin-Caledon Sylvia Jones also attended the commemoration, and said when reading the history of the battalion, and what they were able to achieve under incredibly negative circumstances, "I am very proud of the fact that our community, led by Kevin, have moved heaven and earth to make sure that we will remember and we acknowledge that sacrifice."

The Kevin who Jones referenced is Retired Captain Kevin Junor, who was credited with ensuring the story of this Battalion, and those who sacrificed so much, continues to be told.

Junor had a career with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Reserves that spanned three decades.

He was appointed to the Order of Ontario in 2024.

Junor became the first Black Regimental Sergeant Major for the Toronto Scottish Regiment and was later commissioned as a Captain with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

He also served as a member of the National Apology Advisory Committee for the formal apology that was delivered by Trudeau to the descendants of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

When Junor moved to Caledon 21 years ago, he says that he never would have thought that this day would happen, to see everyone gathered there that day.

"The No. 2 Construction battalion, these men, I still don't understand it, they were told that you're Black, so you can't fight for Canada. They didn't go home and just sit there; they fought for the right to be able to potentially spill their blood on foreign soil," says Junor.

"When they went over, they weren't respected. But, they held their heads up high."

Junor leads the Remembrance Day ceremony annually in Caledon, and says now, when he can look at the Cenotaph and see this plaque, he can be reminded each and every year.

Words fail him, he said.

Another speaker at the plaque unveiling was Mary Beth Sutherland, granddaughter of the Commanding Officer for No. 2 Construction Battalion Lieutenant-Colonel Daniel H. Sutherland.

She shared that for her grandfather, the No. 2 Construction Battalion was an important chapter in his life, and he respected the men he served with, and their will to fight for their country.

At one point, to continue serving with the battalion, Sutherland had to revert in rank to a Major, which he did, and according to Mary Beth, "it was less important than staying with this Battalion."

Singing both Amazing Grace and the Canadian National Anthem at the unveiling were Loraine Christie and Tanya Reid, accompanied by Elijah Fisher on the keyboard.

After the unveiling, Junor handed out a few commemorative coins.

He explained that commemorative coins are a military tradition that acknowledges excellence and outstanding work.

When he began this project, Veterans Affairs funded these coins to recognize the outstanding contributions of individuals, which he was able to present that day.

Attendees afterward were encouraged to take photos with the new plaque and view the informative boards around the room that tell the legacy of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

Caledon to request support from TAPMO

Continued from Page 11

"Our position that it is entirely appropriate for the 2021 World Health Organization (WHO) guideline for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) to be incorporated into the policies, as adopted, given the known association with cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and cancers. Thelong-term health of Ontarians should be prioritized, thereby reducing provincial health care costs," wrote Groves.

Debra Wilson of the Forks of the Credit Conservation Group delegated on the motion on Tuesday night, saying that the motion highlights the growing frustration that they feel municipalities are having when they're limited in their ability to act in the best interest of their residents.

"Caledon's strong, clear wording in OPA 1 was about ensuring the right protections. The Ministry chose to replace this with vague language, more aligned with the aggregate industry. This sends a message that local expertise and residents and municipalities voices can be ignored," said Wilson.

She added there is enough aggregate for growth without putting water, farmland, or communities at risk.

Kiernan, who presented the motion, said she sees this as achievable.

"It's going to take some time, some patience, some advocacy."

She also urged a letter to be sent to Premier Doug Ford as well, saying, "It's time that we go right to the top."

"It's time that we ask Premier Ford to pay attention to what's happening here, to listen to the residents, to look at our reasonable policies…." said Kiernan.

"We put forward perhaps some of the most robust policies out there, very disappointed that there wasn't more pickup on that," remarked Councillor Mario Russo at the meeting, "But that's not within our control, but within our control is to continue the advocacy."

"And if we're going to be writing letters, I think we have a few more stamps," he added.

All in all, it was then decided that more letters would be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Natural Resources, and area Members of Provincial Parliament.

The motion was approved unanimously.

"We're pleased with the outcome of last night's Council meeting decision," said Wilson on Wednesday.

"Caledon's progressive aggregate-mining policies reflect months of careful work, and real local insight. The decision shows that protecting our environment and planning responsibly as it relates to aggregate-mining, is a priority for Caledon council. With the support of TAPMO, we hope that we can come together with the province to align on meeting Ontario's needs while protecting what matters most, and ensuring that our water, farmland and communities are not put at unnecessary risk."

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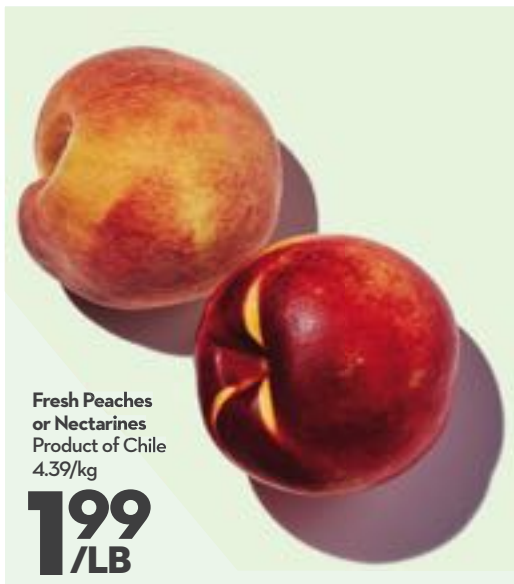


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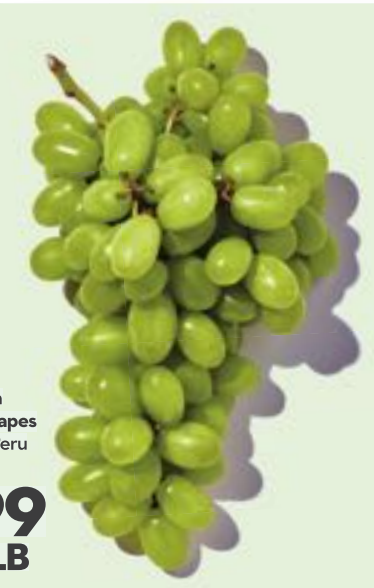
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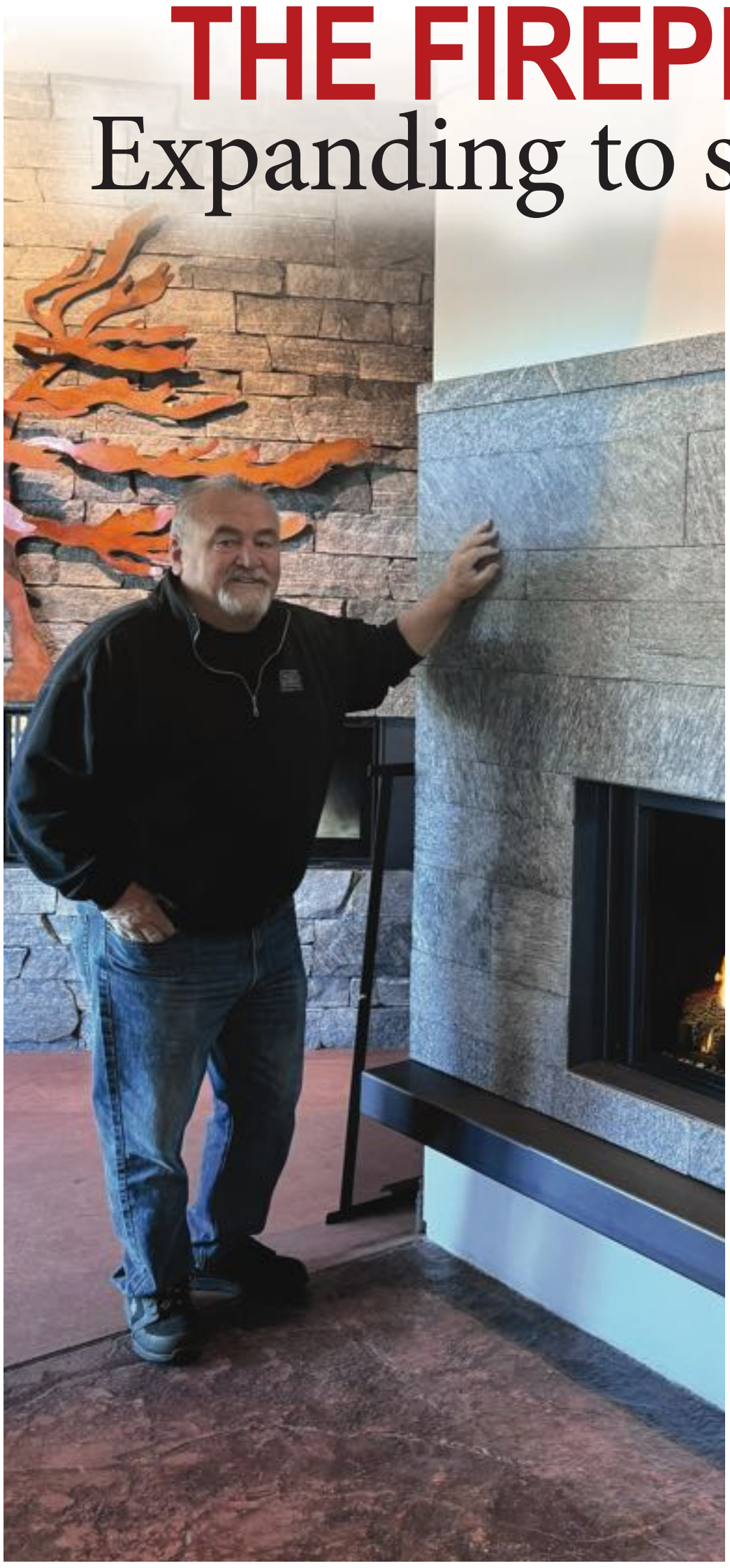
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Now, nearly four decades later, Andy and his family have come full circle, taking over the Fireplace & Leisure Centre in Seguin, Ontario, just one kilometre from Parry Sound — the very place where Andy grew up.

When the opportunity arose to take over the Seguin location, Andy says it felt like the perfect fit, both personally and professionally.

"It's like going home," he said.

The Fireplace Stop has long served customers throughout Muskoka, Parry Sound, and the surrounding regions. With the addition of the Seguin location, the team can now serve the community better than ever.

For Andy, returning to his roots not only strengthens their local connections but also extends the company's reach and service capacity. While they've always supported customers in cottage country, the new location now gives people a place to visit in person — to explore, ask questions, and find the perfect fit for their "firespace."

Andy emphasizes that the move isn't about starting over, but about carrying forward the legacy they've built over nearly 40 years in the hearth industry.

Family is at the heart of The Fireplace Stop. Andy works alongside his three children, and the rest of the team feels just as close — with many employees having been part of the business for decades.

"We're all about our customers," he said.

As a proud Canadian, family-owned and operated business, The Fireplace Stop treats both staff and customers like lifelong friends — and in many cases, they truly are. Andy says he knows nearly everyone who walks through the doors.

"We value the communities we serve," he says. "For us, it's not just about keeping the doors open — it's about understanding our customers' needs and offering products and services that meet or exceed their expectations."

The Fireplace Stop is known for its personalized service and commitment to customer satisfaction on every project. In cottage country, their services are now more accessible than ever — even for properties that require snowmobile or water access.

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The Fireplace Stop continues to evolve — keeping pace with industry trends and technological advances. Andy says the industry changes almost by the minute, and that's what keeps it exciting.

Whether through ongoing factory training, product seminars, or major industry events like the HPBExpo, The Fireplace Stop remains committed to staying ahead — ensuring customers always have access to the newest, most innovative, and most reliable products for their homes and cottages.

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How growing families can create more space



Many people will admit that home ownership tops their lists of long-term goals.

Finding a home that is affordable may require moving into what many real estate agents bill as a "starter home." But the arrival of a child, and then more children thereafter, could make a home that was perfectly functional for two or three feel too close for comfort.

Anyone who would like to raise a family in the future might want to consider certain factors when choosing a residence or designing living spaces. A home that can grow with life changes can truly be a forever home. The following strategies can expand space when a family grows.

• DECLUTTER: It is important to go through belongings regularly and remove anything that is no longer needed. This can be the first step to free up physical space in a room or the home in general. Donate any items that still have utility.

• REASSESS YOUR EXISTING STORAGE: Look at different ways to maximize existing storage. Utilizing vertical space is one way to do so, so an investment in shelves, hooks and storage systems that maximize space in an upward direction can get items off the floor. Make use of storage under the stairs or in eaves. Loft beds with open space underneath are great for children's rooms because they maximize floor area.

• THINK ABOUT TOY STORAGE: Children love to play with toys, and once kids are in a home, toys will accumulate quite quickly. Have a plan for keeping toys neat and stowed away when not in use. Under-the-bed storage, toy armoires (that are secured to the wall) and furniture that can double as storage, such as storage ottomans, are ideal.

• REVAMP A CLOSET: Although closet space may be at a premium, particularly in older homes, a closet can be turned into a nook to hold a desk for a homework station or remote office space. Compact and organized, it's easy to hide away when not in use by closing the door.

• UTILIZE ROOM DIVIDERS: Open floor plans have been the norm for some time. But at some point as a family grows, privacy and multi-functional spaces may be needed. It can be costly to put up permanent walls, but bookcases or pieces of tall furniture can be used as room dividers to cordon off areas as specific spaces, like a child's play area.

• CONVERT A BASEMENT OR GARAGE: Garages and basements have a reputation for being catch-alls for storage boxes and holiday decorations. However, such rooms have plenty of potential as functional living spaces. Invest in transforming a garage or basement into a room that can grow with the family. At first it may be a play area for young kids. Afterwards, it can be a gaming or homework hangout. As children grow older, spaces can be converted to a family media room. Having this extra space can free up room in the rest of the house so people can enjoy alone time when they need it.

• MAXIMIZE OUTDOOR SPACE: A yard or another outdoor space can add valuable square footage to a home. A covered patio or deck can make the outdoor areas more usable throughout the year and zones can be created for family meals, play and relaxation.

A family home will need more space as the years go on, and homeowners should keep that in mind when making renovations or choosing a property.

BUDGET-FRIENDLY DINING ROOM RENOVATION IDEAS

Dining rooms can get lost in the home renovation shuffle, as many homeowners tend to focus on renovating kitchens and bathrooms instead. Homeowners do not have to invest a lot of money in renovations to give their dining spaces awe-inspiring makeovers.

Here's how to do so on a budget.

• LIGHTEN AND BRIGHTEN: Dining rooms were once very formal spaces. Dark woods, large pieces of furniture, over-the-top chandeliers, and other details could be found in many homes. But now that houses are being built with open floor plans, dining rooms can blend with other spaces, which have moved to lighter-coloured walls, flooring and furniture. A fresh coat of vibrant paint can work wonders and it doesn't cost much. If you can't remove a floor, cover it with a brightly coloured area rug.

• SWITCH THINGS UP WITH SLIPCOVERS: Slipcovers can be changed each season to dramatically alter the look of a dining room for little investment. Slipcovers also protect chairs and can be easily laundered after spills.

• ADD FLOATING SHELVING: Floating shelves provide much-needed storage or display space without the need to invest in another piece of furniture. Depending on the shelving, they can work in modern design schemes or even farmhouse dining spaces.

• CLEAR OUT THE CLUTTER: It might be time to say "so long" to that large curio cabinet and the knickknacks within it. Curio and china cabinets used to be de rigueur, but plenty of people now prefer more open and airy dining rooms. For those who want to keep the cabinet, try decluttering inside to only include the very best display pieces and see if the cabinet can be refinished with paint or a lightly coloured stain.

• IMPROVE LIGHTING: Make the chandelier the statement piece of the space. Go for a bold colour or an innovative design. Then add accessories throughout the space that coordinate with the chandelier.

• ADD BENCH SEATING: Those who need additional seating may not have to get entirely new furniture. Swap out some chairs for benches, which can fit a couple more guests than chairs.

• CREATE DEPTH WITH COLOUR: HGTV says that using various shades of the same colour in a space can add depth. Coordinate drapes, walls, seat fabrics, and accessories for a cohesive design.

Renovating a dining room doesn't require a large investment of time and money. A few simple steps can give dining spaces a whole new feel without busting homeowners' budgets.

Happy New Year!

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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

Expenses to expect upon buying a HOME



Homeownership is often characterized as a fulfillment of a dream. Indeed, many homeowners feel their ability to buy a home is a reflection of their discipline and commitment to saving money. That discipline and dedication can set homeowners up for long-term financial health, providing a unique sense of security along the way. First-time home buyers may not know what to expect upon buying a home, and since each home is unique, it's impossible for even long-time homeowners to say with certainty exactly how things will unfold once those new to home ownership get the keys to their first house. Various expenses might be the only common variable when it comes to homeownership, and some of those expenses may surprise first-time buyers. With that in mind, the following are some expenses first-time buyers can expect once their offers are accepted.

DOWN PAYMENT

Conventional wisdom long suggested home buyers should submit a down payment of at least 20 percent of the overall purchase price upon buying a home. Buyers who want to follow that advice would need a down payment of $80,000 when buying a $400,000 home. But many home buyers now submit down payments considerably less than 20 percent, particularly in the modern real estate market, which is characterized by high prices and low inventory. The lower the down payment, the higher your monthly mortgage payment will be, so it's best to save as much as possible toward a down payment.

PRIMARY MORTGAGE INSURANCE (PMI)

Buyers who cannot come up with a down payment of 20 percent or more will have to pay for primary mortgage insurance, which is typically a set fee that is incorporated into the mortgage payment each month. PMI fees are typically waived once the balance on the mortgage reaches 79 percent or less of the purchase price, though some lenders may waive PMI prior to that if the value of the home increases considerably before the loan balance reaches the predetermined marker.

CLOSING COSTS

The amount of closing costs varies widely depending on a host of variables, but Bankrate.com notes it's not uncommon for these costs to come in at somewhere between 2 and 5 percent of the loan principal. Closing costs must be paid no later than when the sale becomes official and buyers sign on the (many) dotted lines. Application and credit fees, title fees, underwriting fees, appraisal fees, and transfer tax are among the various fees that fall under the umbrella of closing costs.

MOVING

It's also important that first-time home buyers budget for moving costs. Moving costs vary and may depend on how much buyers already own and how far they're moving. The home renovation experts at Angi estimate that local moves typically cost somewhere between $883 and $2,568, while long-distance moves may run buyers anywhere from $2,700 to $10,000 or more.

These costs are some of the upfront fees aspiring homeowners can expect when buying a home. Long-term costs, including homeowners' insurance (which is separate from PMI), property taxes, homeowners' association fees, and maintenance are some additional expenses buyers can plan for as they try to determine their home buying budgets.

MARKET UPDATE

Orangeville Statistics - December

	December, 2025	December, 2024	% Change
# of Active Listings	69	67	2.90%
# of Homes Listed	27	27	0.00%
# of Sales	15	14	7.14%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	97%	96%	1.02%
Average Days on Market	55	56	-1.79%
Average Sale Price (all types)	$703,027	$750,849	-6.37%
Detached	$782,000	$696,100	12.34%
Semi-Detached	$487,500	$720,500	-32.36%
Freehold Townhouse	$714,500	$725,000	-1.45%

Orangeville Statistics - Year to Date

	Jan - December, 2025	Jan - December, 2024	% Change
# of Homes Listed	914	918	-0.44%
# of Sales	572	479	19.42%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	99%	98%	0.00%
Average Days on Market	35	28	28.57%
Average Sale Price	$765,101	$837,508	-8.65%
Detached	$797,712	$753,519	5.87%
Semi-Detached	$648,241	$720,950	-10.08%
Freehold Townhouse	$705,000	$721,643	-2.31%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	69
Divided by Sales per Month	15
Months of Inventory	5.8

There is currently 5.8 months of inventory on the Market in Orangeville.
In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

Peel - Caledon Statistics - December

	December, 2025	December, 2024	% Change
# of Active Listings	207	208	-0.48%
# of Homes Listed	75	88	-14.77%
# of Sales	48	42	14.29%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	96%	97%	-1.03%
Average Days on Market	47	32	46.88%
Average Sale Price	$1,101,777	$1,232,940	-10.64%

Peel - Caledon Statistics - Year to Date

	Jan - December, 2025	Jan - December, 2024	% Change
# of Homes Listed	2,669	2,557	4.38%
# of Sales	726	634	14.51%
List Price vs. Sale Price Ratio	96%	95%	1.05%
Average Days on Market	31	30	3.33%
Average Sale Price	$1,247,514	$1,340,030	-6.91%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	267
Divided by Sales per Month	40
Months of Inventory	6.7

There is currently 6.7 months of inventory on the Market in Caledon.
In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

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AREAS WE SERVE

Members of the Orangeville & District Real Estate primarily serve, but are not limited to, the following areas: all of Dufferin County which is comprised of the rural townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, East Luther, Melancthon, Mono, and Mulmur as well as the communities of Grand Valley, Orangeville and Shelburne. The members also serve the Township of Adjala, the Town of Caledon and the Township of Erin.

Buyers and sellers need to be realistic when making an offer or selling

The frenzied housing market of a few years ago saw a sudden and dramatic price increase in homes around the region.

WHILE MANY SELLERS took advantage of the opportunity and placed their homes on the market hoping to get a large payoff, others were more cautious or simply did not have a reason to sell or move at that time.

Even though selling may have produced a good profit for some homeowners, everyone needs a place to live. This resulted in many homeowners moving to places with lower housing prices.

In some cases, this meant moving to another province.

The continued upward movement of housing prices couldn't continue on that type of trajectory and the market reached a place where things began to level off.

After a cooling period, the market began to see housing prices drop. This occurred across the province.

The drop in prices wasn't huge, but it meant that prices were becoming a little more realistic.

Over the past 12 months, the market has been robust with a lot of transactions.

However, not everyone has approached the market with realistic expectations.

After seeing what their neighbours achieved by selling their homes just a few years ago, some sellers believed they could still put a hefty price tag on their home and attract buyers.

The shift in the market meant the potential buyers would not be placing offers today, which were common a few years ago.

This left many sellers frustrated and disappointed.

While some sellers acquiesced and, on the advice of their realtor, adjusted their selling price to better reflect the current market, others were reluctant to reduce their selling price.

This resulted in offers drying up as educated consumers were well aware of the current market and trending prices across the region.

On the other side of the equation, some buyers took the downturn in the market to mean they could make a low-ball offer on a home and succeed.

This also did not work well for someone trying to buy property.

While prices have gone down, the market trend was not extreme and did not see prices drop all that much.

Some buyers were making unrealistic offers on properties thinking that desperate home owners would take the offer just to get a sale.

However, homeowners weren't about to sell their property for a price that was well below market value.

Potential buyers had to re-think their offer on a property and base that offer on current market trends.

After a year of this type of unreasonable strategy by both sellers and buyers, things seemed to have settled down and negotiations are back on track so both buyers and sellers have a good idea of property values in the current market.

This current balance of knowledge has helped many people go ahead with a successful real estate transaction.

This is where having a trusted and knowledgeable real estate agent will help you make informed decisions, whether you are buying or selling a property.

A professional realtor knows the current market trends and can advise you on what will be a proper offer or selling price based on the home, the neighbourhood, and everything that affects property values.

Being an informed consumer will help you achieve your real estate goals with minimum stress and a better chance of success.

-Written by Brian Lockhart



Dufferin Real Estate Market Update

Dufferin Statistics (excluding Orangeville) - December

	December, 2025	December, 2024	% Change
# of Active Listings	205	175	17.14%
# of Sales	24	33	-27.27%
Average Sale Price	$1,029,783	$1,005,021	2.04%

Dufferin Statistics (excluding Orangeville) - Year to Date

	Jan - December, 2025	Jan - December 2024	% Change
# of Sales	356	428	-16.82%
Average Sale Price	$1,040,012	$1,068,595	-2.67%

Buyers Market vs. Sellers Market

Current Number of Homes for Sale	205
Divided by Sales per Month	24
Months of Inventory	8.5

There is currently 8.5 months of inventory on the Market in Dufferin (excluding Orangeville). In a Buyers Market, there is normally more than 6 months worth of inventory.

December 2025 vs. December 2024
The number of active listings in Dufferin (excluding Orangeville) increased by 17.14% in December 2025 over the same month in 2024. The number of homes sold decreased by 9 homes or 27.27% in December 2025. Average sale prices increased by 2.04%.

Year to Date 2025 vs. Year to Date 2024
The number of homes sold in Dufferin (excluding Orangeville), year-to-date decreased from 428 to 356, which is a decrease of 16.82%. Average sale prices were down by 2.67%.

Members of the Orangeville & District Real Estate Board (ODREB) are also members of the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA), the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA), and the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB), and, as such, adhere to a high standard of professional conduct and a strict Code of Ethics.

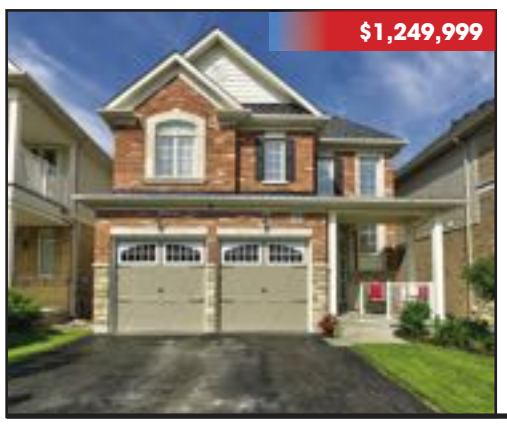
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59 KINGSMERE, ALLISTON
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32 MICHAELIS ST., ALLISTON
In the TreeTops area of New Tecumseth rare custom finished by builder 2940 sq ft total finished living space two storey home with an in-law suite in basement with walkout to private patio area 4+1 bed, 4 bath is a must see. TreeTops features activity park. Elementary school, walking paths and nearby golfing.
SCAN FOR MORE INFO



0 COUNTY ROAD 89, INNISFIL
28.8 Acre Investment or Farming Business Opportunity with 4 bedroom house, a large operational 3280 sq ft Storage Building with loading doors and 2 legal driveway entrances from Cty Rd 89. Located on one of the highest vehicle traffic transportation routes County Road 89, 400 corridor, near Tanger Outlet mall, and future site of the Innisfil Casino.
SCAN FOR MORE INFO



3194 COUNTY ROAD 89, INNISFIL
Innisfil is the place to invest. Investment or business opportunity. 58.8 Acres, 30 acres tiled open land, 28 acre tree lot . Prime specialty crop farmland. 1344sq.Ft. Bungalow, 4 bedroom, 1 bathroom with walkout basement and garage. Older wooden drive shed. Ideal for starting your own market farm. Zoning (asc) allows for home base business, vertical-farming, greenhouses, accessory buildings or dwelling, bunkhouse, storage shed to be built. House and outbuildings being sold as is.
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DIY your way to a safer, warmer winter

(NC) Winter prep is important for keeping your home and family safe through the season, but it doesn't have to be complicated.

With a few DIY upgrades, you can make your home safer and more energy-efficient. Here's how you can get started:

AVOID HEAT LOSS.
Seal drafts around windows, doors and electrical outlets. Use caulking, weather stripping or foam gaskets to keep warm air in and cold air out. Draft stoppers at the base of doors are a quick and affordable fix. Smart thermostats can be a great investment. They learn your schedule and adjust temperatures automatically, helping you save energy when you're away or asleep.

STAY ON TOP OF HVAC MAINTENANCE.
Replace your furnace filter every three months. A clean filter improves airflow and helps your furnace run efficiently. While you're at it, check that heating vents aren't blocked by furniture or rugs. It's important to make sure heating vents are clear to keep your heating system from working harder than it has to, which can waste energy and increase your heating bill.

DON'T LET SNOW AND ICE BUILDUP BLOCK YOUR SYSTEM.
"DIYers can make a big impact on their home's safety and efficiency–and help save some money on energy," says Craig Fernandes, a residential energy conservation manager at Enbridge Gas. "Just don't forget to keep your meter and vents clear while tackling those winter prep projects." Clear snow and ice gently with a broom. Avoid using snow blowers or shovels near the meter and never strike it to remove ice.

GET A HEAD START ON SPRING PROJECTS.
Planning some spring landscaping or putting up a fence next season? Use the winter months to prep your to-do list. Winter is a great time to plan ahead for outdoor projects like landscaping or putting up a fence. Since you're likely spending more time indoors, you can use the quieter months to research ideas, set a budget and make a to-do list. That way, when spring arrives, you'll be ready to get started without delays. When you do get started, it's important to contact Ontario One Call before digging. It's the law, and helps prevent damage to underground gas lines.

Find more energy-saving and safety tips at enbridgegas.com/energyefficiency.

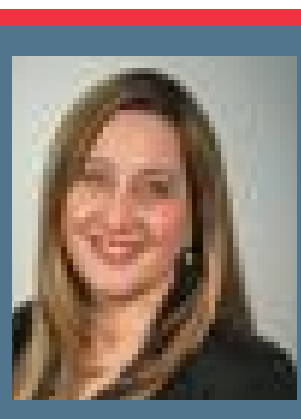
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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS



NEW YEAR, smarter ways to save energy at home

(NC) A new year is a natural time to rethink everyday habits, including how we use energy at home. According to Natural Resources Canada, 64 per cent of the average home's energy consumption goes toward space heating.

While that's expected during Canadian winters, energy use from air conditioning is also rising during hotter summers. Making a few smart, efficiency-focused updates can help reduce waste, manage costs and create a more comfortable home year-round.

Here are a few tips for a smarter, more efficient home:

TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT YOUR INSULATION.
Your AC and furnace work hard to adjust the temperature of the air throughout your home. Don't let all that work—and energy—go to waste. Without proper insulation, the air in your home will equalize to the outside temperature just through contact with the walls and ceiling. Make sure you have a barrier to prevent this, so that your HVAC system only needs to make small adjustments to keep the temperature where you want it.

ELIMINATE WASTEFUL AIRFLOW.
Any draughts or breezes you feel inside are the air in your home leaking out, and the outside air leaking in to replace it. Use caulking and other sealants around every window and check your exterior walls for any potential gaps. Put weatherstripping around all your external-facing doors to keep air from flowing through the doorframe, and consider using it on internal doors, too. This can especially help in multi-story homes where cold air can sink to basement level, and warm air can overheat upstairs rooms.

MAKE SOME SMART UPGRADES.
Smart home technology has improved to the point where your home itself can help you manage your energy use. Smart home platforms like Samsung's SmartThings can help you monitor and manage your devices' energy usage, create customized energy-saving routines and give you tips to reduce your overall consumption. For instance, rather than trying to maintain one home temperature though the day, a connected thermostat can sense when you wake up or arrive back home and adjust the air when it's needed.

All it takes are some simple upgrades focused on efficiency to regain control of your energy use. Smart investment in insulation, weatherstripping and a responsive home environment will pay dividends in savings as well as convenience.

Learn more about how you can save energy at samsung.com/ca/smartthings.

www.newscanada.com

YOUR FIRST WINTER MADE EASY: ENERGY-SAVING TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

(NC) It's your first winter in your new home. The furnace runs more than you expected, and every time you turn the thermostat up "just a bit," you worry what it will do to your bill.

Energy conservation expert Craig Fernandes, from Enbridge Gas, shares simple ways to stay comfortable and use less energy:

Don't let your thermostat waste heat while you are away. Turning the heat down when you don't need it is one of the easiest ways to save. If you're out at work or away for the weekend, your home doesn't need to be as warm as when you are relaxing on the couch.

A good rule of thumb is to set your thermostat to about 20°C when you're home and awake, and around 17°C when you're asleep or out for several hours. A smart thermostat can do this automatically, by allowing you to set a schedule once and let it run.

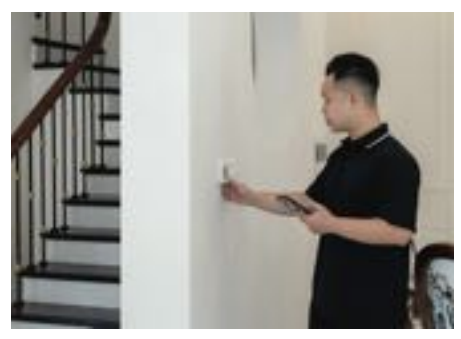
Why is a smart thermostat a great investment? For many homeowners, smart thermostats are becoming the "brain" of the heating system. Unlike basic models, smart thermostats can:

- Follow a weekly schedule based on your routine.
- Automatically turn the heat down when no one is home.
- Use outdoor temperature and real-time conditions to adjust your settings.
- Connect to a mobile app so you can check and change the temperature from anywhere.

That means more control, fewer "oops, I left it turned up all day" moments, and less natural gas used over the winter.

Explore more tips to reduce heating costs at enbridgegas.com/Ontario.

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Did you know?

An assortment of variables will dictate just how long a home's siding will last, including the amount of sun a home receives and the location of the home.

THE LIFE EXPECTANCY of siding will also depend on the siding material. According to Sunshine Contracting, vinyl siding lasts between 20 and 40 years. It's a popular choice because of how long it lasts and the minimal upkeep it requires. Wood siding, another traditional favourite, is more expensive, but it also boasts impressive longevity, according to BobVila.com. With proper maintenance, which includes cleaning and refinishing, wood siding may last for decades. The coating on aluminum siding typically begins to fade after about 15 years. Fiber cement siding is affordable, durable and low maintenance, and it may actually last as long as the home itself. It needs to be repainted occasionally. Sunshine Contracting says stone veneer siding will last between 20 and 75 years, depending on the stone that is used.



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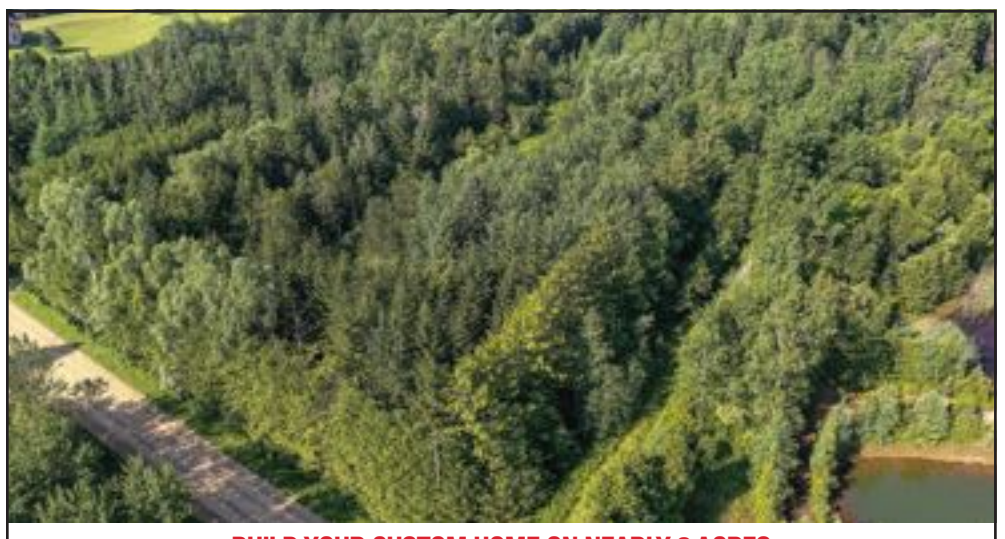
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- Vacant treed lot with mix of spruce & pine trees
- Exceptional privacy & natural beauty
- North of County Road 109, 10 mins. to Orangeville
- Nearby walking, hiking or biking trails
- Fiber optic internet located at roadside
- School bussing is available for local families
- Get away from the hustle & bustle of the city
- Don't miss this opportunity to create your dream home on a treed lot on nearly 2 acres
- 333130 7th Line, Amaranth $475,000



SET ON 50 GENTLY ROLLING ACRES

- Bungaloft, 4 (2+2) bedrooms & 3 bathrooms
- Custom Normerica post-and-beam home
- Open concept with soaring ceilings
- Expansive windows with a view
- Main floor primary with 3 piece ensuite
- Finished lower level, walk-out + 9' ceilings
- 3 tier pond with waterfalls + large deck
- Spectacular views to the east & west
- 5 stall barn, drive shed & Quonset hut
- 954461 7th Line, Mono $2,549,900

coldest night OF THE YEAR

Join Us in Lighting Up the Night

February 28, 2026

At The Chris Richie Group, community is at the heart of everything we do. That's why we're proud to be a sponsor and participate in the annual Coldest Night of the Year walk - an inspiring charity event that brings people together to support those facing hunger, homelessness, and hardship in our community.

On February 28, 2026, participants will step out into the cold night to raise funds and awareness for people in need. While the temperatures may be low, the impact is powerful and every step taken helps bring warmth, hope, and support to those who need it most.

We invite you to join us! Bring your family, friends, and colleagues as we turn a cold night in February into a meaningful evening filled with compassion, connection, and purpose.

Together, we can make a real difference while showing what it means to stand as a community. If you wish to participate reach out to info@cnoy.org or visit https://en.cnoy.org/home.

If you are not able to participate, you can support the cause by sponsoring one of our Richie Group walkers!!!

Let's walk together, light up the night, and help spread warmth where it matters most.

With gratitude,
The Chris Richie Group