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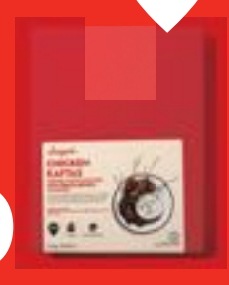
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1 kg pkg
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FREE | Thursday, March 5, 2026 | Volume 46, Issue 10



Residents set out for 2026's Coldest Night of the Year event, hosted by Caledon Community Services.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

CCS holds record-breaking Coldest Night of the Year

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Community Services (CCS) hosted its annual Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) on Saturday, and this year's event started with a bang.

For the very first time, CCS reached its goal before the walk even began.

Sitting at 102% of their goal, raising more than $100,000 prior to the event, Geraldine Aguiar, Chief Executive Officer at CCS, says it was an incredible experience.

"It's record-breaking, and now we're chasing after beating our last year's record, and I know that the community will definitely step up," says Aguiar. "This just means so much for our services. It means people are going to come to our door, and we're going to be able to serve them. This is the community backing everything that we're doing, and we're over-the-moon grateful."

Standing where the event was held at Caledon East Community Complex, Aguiar says the room was electric as more than 200 walkers suited up for the big day, complete with noise makers and CNOY toques.

"This is what drives our mission of creating a healthy and engaged community. That kind of work cannot be done by ourselves, and this is an example. This is a snapshot of what the community can do when we all lock arms and do things together. Those who are hungry, homeless, and hurting are going to have a place to turn to in Caledon, and that is just a wonderful thing," she says.

Coldest Night of the Year is an annual fundraising event where participants walk 2 or 5 km in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness.

Over 35 teams took part this year, helping CCS not only reach but surpass their goal.

One of those teams was "Holy Family Saints," which has raised almost $5,000 and has been participating in CNOY for six years.

Continued on Page B11

Peel Partners shine light on online safety

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A partnership between Peel Children's Aid Society (CAS), Our Place Peel, Peel District School Board (PDSB), Region of Peel, and Peel Regional Police recently presented three Digital Dangers workshops, aimed at protecting children in online spaces.

The latest was held at Mayfield Secondary School on March 3.

The workshop, attended by parents, caregivers, and residents alike, taught not only important tips parents should know about the online world but also discussed the harsh reality many teens face.

Continued on Page A11



COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING – Joy Brown is pictured presenting on their Community Safety and Well-Being Team.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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(LEFT) Ian Sinclair receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from Andrew McCammon. (RIGHT) Erica McNiece and Debbe Crandall receive their award. **PHOTOS BY RILEY MURPHY**

Watershed Guardian Awards highlight growing environmental advocacy in Caledon

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On February 26th, the Ontario Headwaters Institute honoured five individuals and groups in Caledon with "Watershed Guardian Awards."

What began as an award ceremony in Caledon East turned into a discussion of watershed protection and environmental consciousness in the community, with each recipient using their spotlight to continue advocating for the issues most important to them.

Opening the event, Andrew McCammon, Executive Director of the Ontario Headwaters Institute, explained that this year brought a shift from individual awards to regional awards, in an effort to acknowledge the cumulative efforts of people working collectively for their watersheds.

The Ontario Headwaters Institute is a registered charity that promotes watershed security, which is protecting resilient and healthy watersheds for ecological integrity, economics, vitality, and social well-being.

Before the awards, McCammon led a discussion on the health of the Credit and Humber watersheds, as well as watershed security.

McCammon discussed numerous issues about the current state of watershed security in Ontario, including the lack of targets to retain natural heritage.

Shifting from discussion to celebration, attendees got ready to acknowledge and celebrate the work of these "guardians" in Caledon.

Five Watershed Guardian Awards were presented through two categories.

A lifetime achievement award was presented to Ian Sinclair, and four Community Advocate Awards went to Democracy Caledon, Forks of the Credit Preservation Group, Paul Newall, and Tony Sevelka.

Paul Newall sadly passed away prior to the award ceremony, but received his award months earlier.

"Paul was one of those extraordinary guys, sort of somewhat unassuming, but he got into every little stormwater pond and all the issues around Alton," said McCammon.

Newall led the Credit Watershed Alliance as President, articulated the need for Credit Valley to complete 15-year-old sub-watershed studies that had never been completed in its watershed plan, and served on the board of the Alton Grange Association.

It was shared that as a resident of Alton for most of his life, Newall's love for the area grew into active engagement to protect local watersheds and their natural heritage.

The next guardian awarded was the Caledon group, Democracy Caledon.

"Since 2024, Democracy Caledon has been a leading voice in Caledon for protecting watershed security, natural heritage, and agriculture, and promoting sound land-use planning and public engagement in municipal governance," said McCammon

He added that concerns addressed by Democracy Caledon have included "challenging the process of improving urban growth, holding municipal Council to account on its decision-making and budget, opposing the destruction of the groundwater-fed lake by dumping construction fill, and advocating for stringent by-law controls on field dumping elsewhere in Caledon."

"That is a snippet of their work," he adds.

Accepting the award were Democracy Caledon president Debbe Crandall and Erica McNiece.

Crandall took the time to discuss the galvanization of Democracy Caledon when, in 2024, Caledon Council approved the rezoning of 11 of 12 development applications to provide nearly 35,000 housing units in Caledon.

"It was the audacity, it was the shock of a planning system that was being completely turned on its head."

"But there is always a yin to the yang," said Crandall, noting that that decision brought together the organization seen today.

"We are committed, we are passionate, we are smart, and we are value-driven," said Crandall. "We are renewed in our efforts to make sure that the water is protected, that the newcomers come here, and they come here with welcoming arms in well-designed communities. That's our pledge going forward, so future generations actually have a Caledon that can't be in the best shape because it's so degraded, but in really good shape."

McNiece added that she has seen the impact "that poor planning has had on my watershed security."

Continued on Page A17

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Caledon Meals on Wheels to hold tasting menu event

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Meals on Wheels (CMOW) is inviting community members – and their appetites – to their tasting menu event on March 12.

Attendees will be able to not only meet CMOW's brand-new Chef Arielle, but also try new menu ideas and vote on the dishes they'd like to see added to the menu.

"[We] wanted to make sure that what we're doing is coming from and informed by the people that we're serving," says Executive Director Kim Rodrigues, "I think it's important that they have that input as much as possible and be able to contribute to our programs as well."

Rodrigues says they aim to keep CMOW client-centred, and their feedback is key to the work they do.

She adds they're excited for Chef Arielle to join CMOW, bringing both her new ideas and experience to the table.

"It would be really great to be able to showcase some of the ideas that she has, and some of the new flavors that she wants to bring. We really want to get away from people thinking that Meals on Wheels meals aren't really that great. They're delicious. They're meals that I would bring home to my family," says Rodrigues.

This event, she says, is a chance for the community to experience that for themselves.

"We're one of a handful of organizations that do a Meals on Wheels program that actually cook their meals from scratch themselves. We're really proud of that," says Rodrigues. "It means that we can really provide high-quality meals that are delicious and meet the needs of the seniors and older adults that might need those meals."

The event is a two-for-one, Rodrigues adds, offering both a chance for the community to meet their new chef and develop their new menu, but also a chance to celebrate their newest project thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF).

At the tasting menu event, there will be a celebration of the launch of their new podcast, Aging Out Loud Caledon, which they completed with support from their OTF grant.

The podcast focuses on the lives and stories of local older adults in the community, each with a unique story to share.

Rodrigues says they feel fortunate to be working in the community with seniors and older adults who often provide interesting insight and anecdotes of their lives.

"We often are feeling that we're hearing all of this, and wouldn't it be great for other people to hear?" she says. "We felt for a long time that we were gatekeeping some of those stories, and sharing the amazing lives that so many of our seniors have as well as what they've experienced."

Rodrigues says they wanted to be able to share that more broadly than just their own team and organization, "because truly there's so much that we learn ourselves, as staff members or volunteers, from the people that we're engaging with, and [we] thought it would be a great opportunity for others."

"Sometimes we don't pause enough, and listen, and learn from people that have walked this path before us. They have a lot to share," she adds.

So far, they have more than 35 people registered, and Rodrigues says they're excited to welcome more.

The free event will run from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on March 12 at St. James Anglican Church in Caledon East.

RSVP must be done before the event so CMOW can ensure there is enough food for all.

"We're happy to accommodate as many as we can. We'd love to meet people that haven't experienced a meal through us or who are currently getting meals through us. We'd love to see them at the event and get their feedback, what they like, what they perhaps don't like, and help us celebrate some of the projects that we've been able to develop most recently through that OTF grant."



PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on April 9, 2026, at the Town of Caledon Municipal Office, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Town of Caledon Municipal Office, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon.

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS:

1. Roll No. 21 24 010 002 87025 0000; 47 ESPOSITO DR., BOLTON; PIN 14355-0681 (LT); PCL 19-1 SEC 43M1145; LT 19 PL 43M1145; S/T RIGHT AS IN LT1580437; S/T LT1531943; TOWN OF CALEDON; File No. 24-04

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $674,000
Minimum tender amount: $56,862.38

2. Roll No. 21 24 010 009 07524 0000; 24 HENRY WILSON DR., CALEDON; PIN 14336-1455 (LT); LOT 124, PLAN 43M2056; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT FOR ENTRY AS IN PR3535369; TOWN OF CALEDON; File No. 24-15

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $847,000
Minimum tender amount: $61,535.07

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit:

www.OntarioTaxSales.ca and/or **Caledon.ca/taxsale** or if no internet access available, contact:

Tanya Baird
Senior Clerk, Revenue
The Corporation of the Town of Caledon

6311 Old Church Road
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STOLEN VEHICLES RECOVERED

Members of the Community Street Crime unit (CSCU) from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have recovered numerous stolen vehicles following a search warrant.

"In early 2026, officers from the Caledon OPP CSCU received information regarding stolen vehicles being shipped from a commercial property in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "On February 19, 2026, a search warrant was executed by the Caledon, Dufferin, and Nottawasaga CSCU's, which resulted in the seizure of four stolen vehicles, with a total value of approximately $180,000 (CAD)."

This investigation remains ongoing.

For anyone with information regarding high value stolen property, please contact the Caledon OPP CSCU at (905) 584-2241. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

FAIL TO STOP INVESTIGATION

The Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a fail to stop incident following a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program.

"On February 15, 2026, at approximately 1:00 a.m., Caledon OPP were conducting a RIDE program at the Highway 410 northbound off-ramp to Valleywood Boulevard, in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "Officers observed the vehicle turn around, avoiding the RIDE program, and proceed southbound in the northbound lanes of Highway 410.

"The vehicle then exited onto Mayfield Road, traveling westbound in the eastbound lanes, and proceeded through numerous red traffic signals on Mayfield Road. The suspect vehicle, which is believed to be a grey, older-model Acura sedan, with black rims and no front licence plate, was last seen traveling southbound on Hurontario Street, from Mayfield Road, in the City of Brampton."

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

The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone who may have witnessed the incident or has dashcam footage 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 Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

IMPAIRED CHARGES

Officers from the Caledon OPP have recently charged three individuals with alcohol related offences.

"On February 16, 2026, at approximately 10:00 p.m., Caledon OPP officers responded to a report of multiple motor vehicle collisions in the area of Mayfield Road and Chinguacousy Road, in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "Shortly after, investigating officers located the driver and formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol."

Following the investigation, Tejinder Singh, 34, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired – alcohol;
- Failure or refusal to comply with demand;
- Failure to stop after accident.

The charges have not been proven.

"On February 18, 2026, at approximately 12:00 a.m., Caledon OPP officers responded to a traffic complaint involving a possibly impaired driver," say Police. "Officers later located the vehicle on Highway 10, near The Grange Sideroad, in the Town of Caledon. Investigating officers conducted a traffic stop upon the vehicle and formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol."

As a result of the investigation, Jamar Grant, 32, of Orangeville, was charged with:

- Operation while impaired – alcohol;
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus);
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor.

The charges have not been proven.

"On February 22, 2026, at approximately 2:00 a.m., Caledon OPP conducted a traffic stop upon a vehicle who travelled through a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program in the area of Albion Vaughan Road and Mayfield Road, in the Town of Caledon. Officers investigated and formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol."

As a result, Pardeep Bhogal, 29, of Schomberg, was charged with:

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

The charge has not been proven.

All accused parties are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date to answer to their charge(s). The involved vehicles were also impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver's licences were suspended for a period of 90 days.

"Drivers continue to take chances. It's simply not worth the risk. Motorists are reminded that no amount of alcohol or drugs in your system is safe when driving. If you plan on drinking or consuming drugs, plan to not drive. Instead, arrange for a designated driver, take a taxi or public transit, or come up with another plan that takes impaired driving out of the picture. If you suspect that someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, it is important to call 9-1-1 to report it."

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

OPP WARNS OF CRA SCAMS

As Canadians begin preparing their 2025 income tax returns, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding the public to stay vigilant against Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) impersonation scams, particularly phishing emails and text messages designed to steal personal and financial information.

According to the Canada Revenue Agency, scammers frequently impersonate CRA employees and may contact victims by phone, email, text message, or through fake websites designed to look official. The CRA confirms that it will never send refunds by e transfer or text message, request personal or financial information by email or voicemail, or pressure you to click links to receive benefits or avoid penalties.

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre continues to receive high volumes of reports involving tax-related fraud, noting that fraudsters increasingly use phishing messages, spoofed caller ID numbers, and official looking CRA branding to trick victims into sharing sensitive information. The CAFC stresses that it does not contact individuals to request money or personal information, and encourages all Canadians to report suspicious activity.

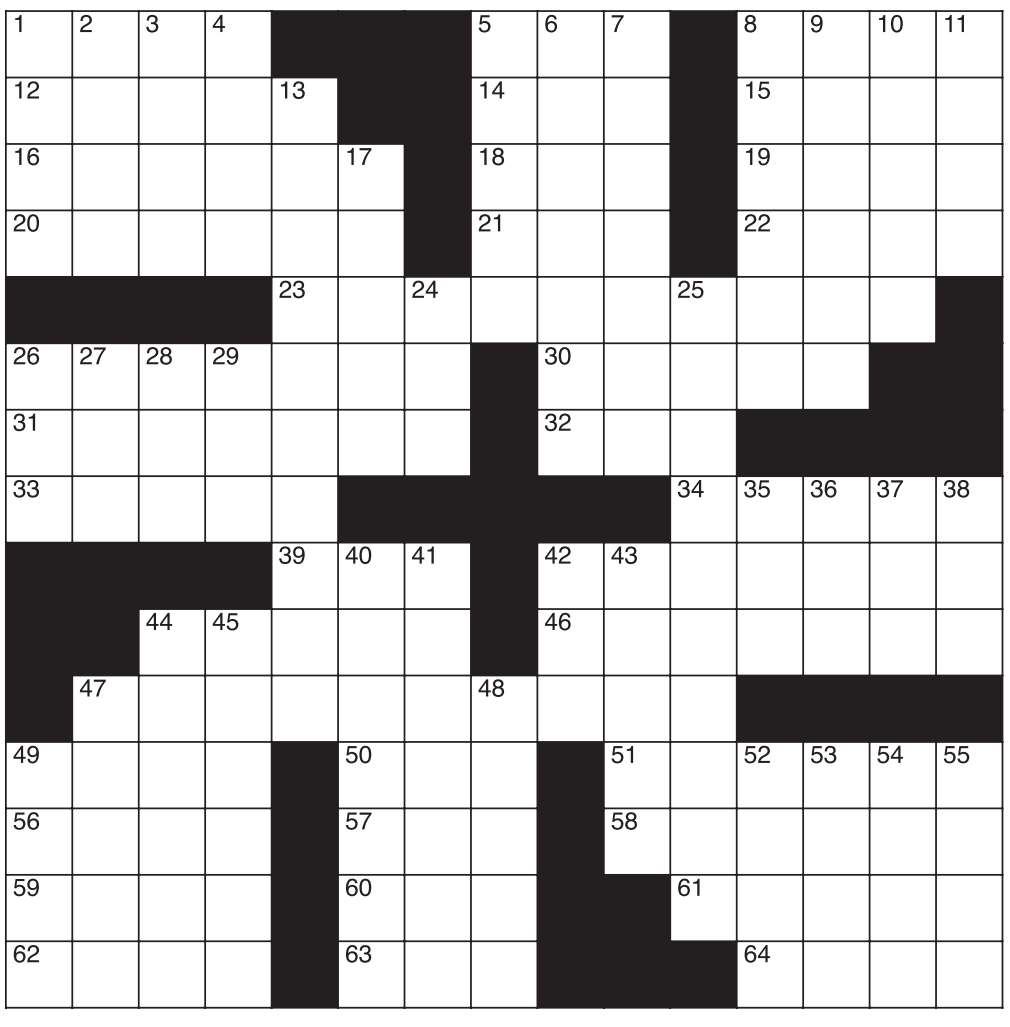
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1. Unit of dry measure
5. One who defies authority
8. Social media giant
12. Render holy
14. "Much __ about nothing"
15. Computer manufacturer
16. Creed
18. Immoral act
19. Mountain pass
20. Winged nut
21. Don't know when yet
22. Elected officials
23. Corrupt tendencies
26. Popular adult beverage
30. Made a mistake
31. Morally correct
32. Type of whale
33. Portable conical tent
34. Native people of the Congo
39. More (Spanish)
42. Classroom implements
44. Cognizant of
46. One who tells
47. Free from bondage
49. Thick piece of something
50. Containing two adjacent nitrogen atoms
51. Removed from the record
56. Legendary singer Turner
57. Broke up the earth
58. Hunting expedition
59. Contributes
60. Unit of work or energy
61. Wreckage on the sea bed
62. Affirmative! (slang)
63. Witness
64. Scrape (Archaic)

CLUES DOWN

1. "__ and flows"
2. Humble request for help
3. A position of leadership
4. Continent
5. Adherent of a particular religion
6. Things that can be eaten
7. Self-governing Netherlands territory
8. Long-tailed crow
9. Repeated
10. Bluish greens
11. Humanities
13. Someone who serves in the armed forces
17. Labor (Spanish)
24. Zero
25. Shared by involving three parties
26. Queens ballplayer
27. Consumed
28. Rest here please
29. Men's fashion accessory
35. American time
36. Sound unit
37. They __
38. Soviet Socialist Republic
40. Places to play video games
41. A sudden attack of illness
42. When you hope to arrive
43. Charges
44. Actress Seyfried
45. A tributary of the Ohio River
47. Omit when speaking
48. Armored fish
49. Remain
52. From a distance
53. Adventure story
54. Geological times
55. Eat dinner

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ARTS & CULTURE

G.E.T. Outreach Works holds Black History Month grand finale

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

After a month of educational opportunities and community celebrations, Gathering, Evolving and Transforming (G.E.T.) Outreach Works held a Black History Month grand finale through their C.E.E.P. initiative.

This initiative provides educational awareness during Black History Month, serving Shelburne and surrounding communities, such as Caledon, through cultural awareness programming and special events – just like their recent event held at North Peel Community Church on February 28.

The celebration was focused on "the creativity, resilience, and brilliance woven throughout Black history and culture."



Councillor Doug Maskell, Andrea Kelly-Brown, and Kevin Junor in North Peel Community Church.
PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

This community event focused on connectivity and fostered a true space for learning.

"We always finish off with a grant finale here in the Caledon community, where we provide opportunities for the community at large to come in and share in the theme that we're expressing. This year was all about Black community and innovation," says Andrea Kelly-Brown, G.E.T. Outreach Works Vice President.

Each year, G.E.T. Outreach Works holds activities and educational awareness during Black History Month, and this year, Kelly-Brown says that it was extremely unique and allowed them to express their theme in many different ways.

Partnering with North Peel Community Church was a full-circle moment, as the church is where the organization was born.

"We saw the need and wanted to do something for the community," explains Kelly-Brown.

She adds their programs are a way to bring everybody together to learn and enjoy each other's community.

"To know that we can come together as one, no matter who you are, no matter what culture, and just live and enjoy and be as one is 100% what we do," says Kelly-Brown.

At the event that day, there were four keynote speakers, each highlighting the Black community in different ways.

From spoken word to live hair demonstrations, each speaker brought something new to the day.

"A lot of times, for me growing up, if we were talking about Black history, we were constantly working with individuals from our neighbouring country, which is the United States, and we've been really working hard to highlight individuals within our community, the unsung heroes," says Kelly-Brown, explaining the speakers of the day.

"We looked for individuals that could talk about our theme in a way that would highlight who they are, what they've been doing in the community for a long time, and also celebrate with us to bring it here."

The first keynote speaker of the day was Natalie Smith, a medical doctor, entrepreneur, and storyteller, who performed a spoken word piece, titled "What Does it Mean to Be Black?"

A segment of her spoken word held the following phrases, "Though we experience discrimination, the law suppressed us as a nation, as previous owners withheld jobs, loans, property, and education, but despite segregation, despite defamation, despite disgust and hatred, we kept on elevating. Why? Because Black was not designed for breaking."

Concluding her spoken word, Smith led the crowd in repeating after her, "It's not impossible. Because I am possible," telling those sitting in the church that day that "everything that you are, everything you are called to be, every sphere of influence that you were created to impact, every passion and every desire, every talent that you possess is possible."

The next presentation came from Shimmara Gordon and Jevonese Williams, who presented "The Influence of Black Hair in Our History."

The two explained through their presentation how Black hair is a deep historical marker of identity, status, and heritage rooted in African tradition.

"Historically, it has been used as a tool of resilience and oppression. Slaves were forced to shave their hair, being dehumanized, while natural styles like the afro later emerged as a symbol of political power and pride," saif Gordon.

Explaining that hair is a large part of identity, historically specific patterns and styles like cornrow or bantu knots identified a person's tribe, family background, or geographic origins.

"Nowadays, we still use hair to express ourselves, but hair is another form of communication between people and can be used as many different styles of art forms," continued Gordon.

"Black hair is more than style. It is history, it is identity, and it is pride. We went from laws that tried to silence us to movements that celebrated our natural beauty. Its legacy reminds us that something as simple as hair can hold powerful stories on resilience and self-expression, and as we move forward, let's remember that growth starts with awareness and action."

The two continued presenting on different hair textures, braiding techniques, patterns, and more, and even provided a live demonstration of proper hair care techniques for 4C hair.

The next speaker that afternoon was Anita Alabi, who led a discussion on the Black community and family.

Alabi is a registered social worker, and through therapy with her clients, she specializes in areas of anti-Black racism, anti-oppressive, cognitive behavioural therapy, intergenerational trauma and more.

"The Black family is adaptive, it's resilient, and it's sacred, so when we speak about humans, we speak about humans from our lens, an afro-centric lens that centers Black history, culture, spirituality, and community systems. Trauma for Black people is not just personal, it's historic and systemic, it's also intergenerational, and so too is our resilience," said Alabi.

In her discussion, Alabi stressed the importance of healing, community, and what these concepts mean to different people.

"When people talk about community, that's where our healing happens. Storytelling is therapy. Identity is healing," said Alabi.

The final speaker was Dr. Beverely Blair, who presented not just on the Black Community and the Church, but more specifically, the historic church hat.

"The tradition of wearing church hats dates back to early Christianity, where women were encouraged to cover their heads during worship as a sign of modesty and reverence," explained Blair. "This practice was particularly significant in the African-American community, where hats became a powerful symbol of identity and pride, especially during the era of slavery and beyond."

Blair remarked she remembers a time when she would set out to buy her own church hat and get the matching shoes and purse as well.

She continued, explaining that as the Black middle class emerged in the early 20th century, church hats became status symbols.

Reflecting economic and social advancement, church hats became more elaborate, crafted from various materials that were adorned with intricate designs, feathers, and ribbons.

"It's more than just a mere fashion accessory. It's deeply rooted in our culture, our spiritual fabric, our community, and represents a rich history of resilience, creativity, and identity," said Blair.

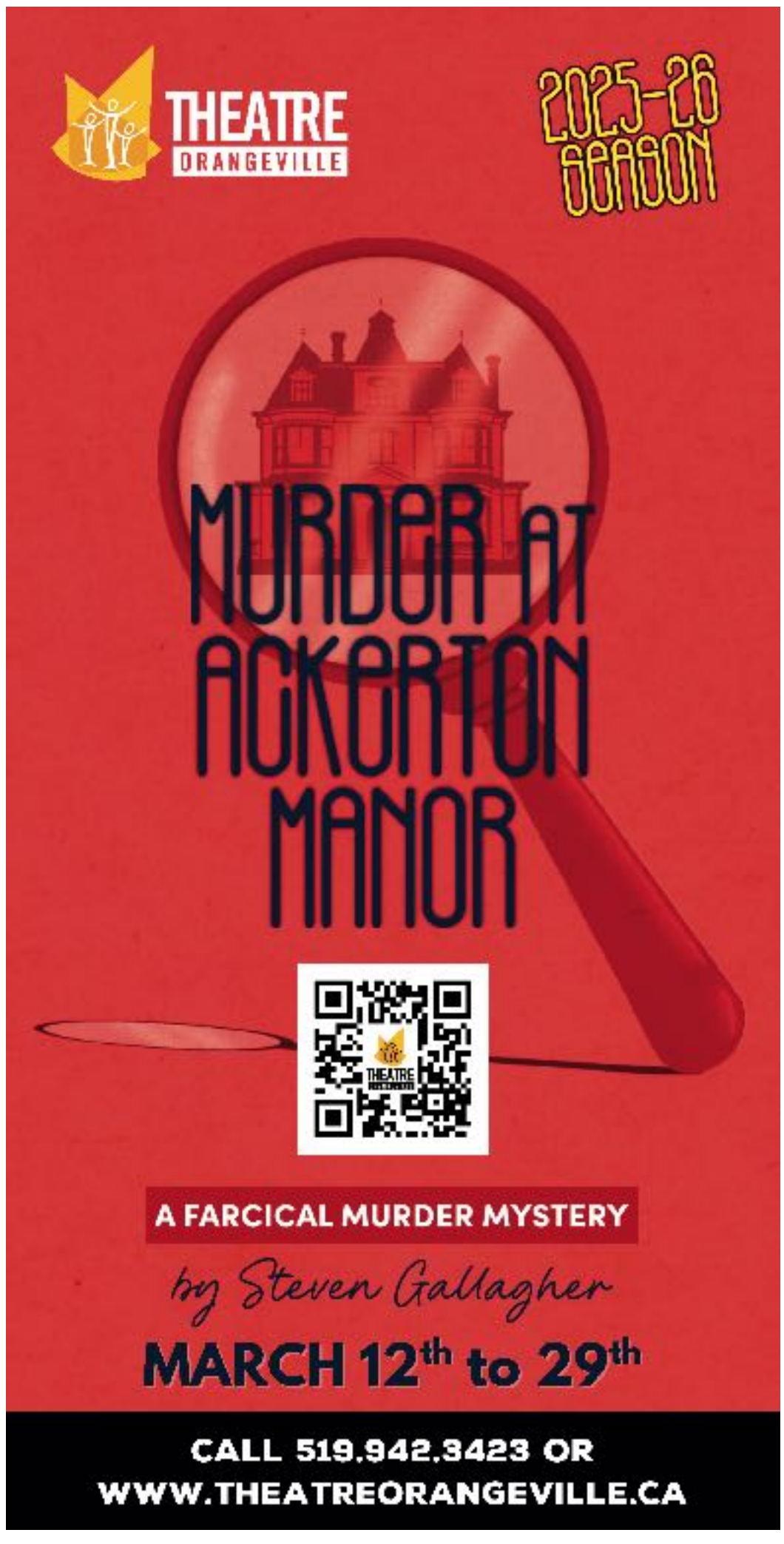
After the keynotes concluded, the rest of the day was spent in celebration.

Attendees could be seen sharing a meal together or speaking with one of the keynote speakers at their booths.

The walls of North Peel Community Church were decorated with the achievements and history of the Black Community, encouraging learning once more.

"We didn't just celebrate Black history today. We celebrated our community today," said Kelly-Brown, reflecting on the event.





Election Sign By-Law discussion brings amendment ahead of October vote

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

At a General Committee meeting held on March 3, Caledon Council approved amendments to the Election Sign By-Law.

A staff report came forward at the meeting recommending an Election Sign By-law review and proposed replacement, featuring changes such as a maximum three election signs per candidate or registered third party advertiser on a lot instead of the previous one candidate or advertiser per lot, the removal of streets from the public lands definition to allow for election signs to be placed in ditches or road allowances, and that the time frame of allowing placement of election signs be changed from 35 to 45 days prior to voting day.

Many Council members expressed concerns about the proposed replacement, primarily regarding environmental issues.

Councillor Christina Early stated that "environmentally, this is a disaster."

She brought forward issues such as sign pollution, the increase in days creating more "mess," and the amount of plastic that would be used in the upcoming election if the sign limit were raised from one to three.

"The other thing that really concerns me is you allude to ditches in the report, and yet if the ditch abuts a private owner, you have to get private owner approval, but I'm going to suspect that a lot of people are just going to take advantage of it when they see the word ditch," voiced Early.

Councillor Mario Russo said he sees the need for the revised timeframe, but he feels the three signs were not necessary.

"The one that concerns me the most is the election signs placement in ditches and road allowances," said Russo, adding it creates not only a safety risk but also the opportunity that those may not get permission.

Councillor Nick de Boer echoed environmental concerns, saying the proposed replacement is "a way to create more garbage."

"Many years ago, we brought the election sign bylaw in because of the fact that many, many residents didn't want to see intersections and corners all plastered with every candidate's sign and whoever could get there first got the best spot. That's what the residents of Caledon didn't want," said de Boer. "That's why we have the bylaw that we have. They didn't want to generate a pile of garbage just because we were running an election."

Councillor Dave Sheen said he also didn't see the need for the increase in signs, adding that with signs for a Regional Councillor, a Ward Councillor, a Mayor, and a Trustee, there could be up to 12 signs on one lot.

"The impact on the environment, these are non-biodegradable signs, they're going to last forever. It's a terrible insult or impact on our environment," said Sheen.

Councillor Tony Rosa stated at the last election, the issue he saw was people not following the rules, leading to the use of by-law resources.

"My concern here is more about finding rules that people will respect and follow," said Rosa, adding that an important piece for him is the enforcement.

Rosa said that no matter what number of days they decide on, he doesn't feel that By-law should have to deal with these issues "24/7."

Stephen Chisholm, Assistant Town Solicitor, Corporate Services, joined the conversation, explaining that the intent was to expand the by-law in a way that would "perhaps provide the maximum amount of democratic input for residents."

He added the specific consideration behind the increase in the time allowance for signs was that the first advanced voting date could be 30 days out from the ultimate voting date, whereas the previous by-law allowed only five days for putting up signs.

Councillor Doug Maskell voiced his support for the increase in days, but shared other Councillors' concerns about possible confusion over "ditches."

De Boer added that lengthening the allowance for putting up signs does not make a difference.

"You're forgetting that it's not an election where you just display signs. It's getting to the doors and knocking on doors and meeting people, and that's the work that gets involved, that you do get involved in before the advanced polling," he says. "I just think that creating more and more garbage in this environment, especially plastics doesn't make a lot of sense."

Councillor Cosimo Napoli echoed safety concerns about allowing signs in road allowances and ditches.

An amendment was put forward to return the sign allowance to one, rather than three; to keep the public lands definition the same as the current election sign by-law; and to remove the section regarding where election signs may be placed or displayed adjacent to highways, including on public rights-of-way and road allowances.

The amendment was approved, and the main motion was passed.

MAYOR ANNETTE GROVES
MAYOR GROVES' COLUMN



Air quality by-law - Protecting the air we share

To safeguard the long-term health of our residents, I brought forward a motion in Council to direct staff to develop an air quality bylaw for the Town.

Caledon is home to one of the highest concentrations of aggregate resources and operations in Ontario. Over time, this has created cumulative pressures on our municipal infrastructure, rural communities, farmland, sensitive water resources, and local air quality. We must ensure that resource development does not come at the expense of residents' health.

That is why the Town has sought advocacy support from the Province and Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities of Ontario (TAPMO) to strengthen provincial and municipal planning policies related to air quality, dust mitigation, and monitoring. At the same time, we have a responsibility to act locally where we can.

I am grateful to Members of Council and the Forks of the Credit Preservation Group for supporting an air quality bylaw and for recognizing that protecting the air we share is protecting the health of our community.

"The Forks of the Credit Preservation Group thanks Mayor Groves and Council for taking the necessary steps to protect our community's health. Limiting air emissions of PM2.5 from gravel mining and quarry operations is important and we are grateful that the Mayor is also focusing on the bigger picture of air quality for everyone in Caledon." – David Sylvester, Chair, Forks of the Credit Preservation Group

An air quality bylaw would give us another proactive tool to better protect residents by addressing emissions from local sources and reinforcing accountability.

The air we breathe connects us all. When air quality declines, the effects are personal and far-reaching. Clean air is not a luxury—it is essential to our well-being.

COMMUNITY *events*

This column is provided as a free public service to non-profit organizations to announce up-coming events. Please contact the Caledon Citizen by calling ***(905) 857-6626*** *or emailing* ***admin@caledoncitizen.com*** *if you wish to have an announcement published.*

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
Saturday, March 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!

Kingcrafts Studio Spring Artisan Sale 2026
Join us for our annual Spring Studio Sale featuring 40+ local artists.

Shop unique handcrafted items and gifts:
Card making • Decorative Arts • Enamelling
Fibre Art • Fine Art • Fused Glass • Jewellery
Leather Art • Needlework • Pottery
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Sat. April 25, 10am - 8pm
Sun. April 26, 10am - 4pm

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MARCH 5

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For more information, contact our Fitness Programmer:
905-584-2272 ext. 4780 / 4871 / 7561



Join our team!

Caledon Fire and Emergency Services is actively recruiting volunteer firefighters.

Why become a volunteer firefighter? You join a dedicated team, give back to your community, learn new skills, and more! Plus, volunteers are paid for their time when responding to a call.

Interested? In order to apply, you must attend one of our mandatory information sessions. Visit **caledon.ca/fire-recruitment** for more details and to get started.

Interim Property Taxes are Due

Property taxes are due March 5, 2026. Regular late payment fees apply. For payment options visit: **caledon.ca/tax**.

New CO Alarm Requirements In Effect

As of January 1, 2026, all homes must have:
- A carbon monoxide alarm adjacent to every sleeping area
- A carbon monoxide alarm on every storey without a sleeping area

Full details and safety tips: **caledon.ca/carbonmonoxide**

For all cemeteries operated by the Town of Caledon

The Town of Caledon has submitted by-laws to the Registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Any interested parties may contact Service Caledon at 905-584-2272 or cemeteries@caledon.ca for information. By-laws or amendments may be reviewed or copied at Town Hall, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon ON L7C 1J6.

These by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002.

For assistance, please contact the Bereavement Authority of Ontario's Licensing department at 647-483-2645 or 1-844-493-6356 or licensing@thebao.ca.

A list of all Town of Caledon operated cemeteries can be obtained from Service Caledon.

TOWN OF CALEDON
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Caledon, ON L7C 1J6
caledon.ca
311 | 905.584.2272 | 1.888.225.3366 | F. 905.584.4325

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BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Change you can set your watch to

I've never had the best of lucks with clocks.

From the time I first set foot in a school setting at the age of three or four, the tick-tock of the timepiece on the wall was a focal point of learning as we deciphered what those twelve numbers, three hands, and the notches in between translated to. This clock actually had a further ring of twelve numbers inside the main event to teach us not only how to tell time, but do so with military precision.

Still, the tick-tock in a nearly silent classroom never failed to make my hair feel like it was standing on end.

The transition to public school, however, made me embrace the tick-tock a bit more because, it being a school of a certain age, relied on hardwired, plugged-in timepieces where the second hand moved with precision smoothness… and the tick-tock replaced by the dull whir of the motor which irritated my follicles even further!

Still, my luck with clocks hasn't really improved over… well, time.

A beautifully made cuckoo clock my grandmother brought me back from Austria – no small feat as she was on a shoulder-to-shoulder bus tour of the Alpen countries – met its demise after the bird chirped one too many times in the middle of the night for my father's taste.

A clock I had long been searching for to add to my collection – it's a fandom thing – finally and unexpectedly surfaced at a local thrift store, only to break down beyond repair two weeks after I put it on the wall.

At least that was somewhat replaceable. The next example not so much.

We grandchildren didn't receive much from our grandfather after his death in 2006, but one particular keepsake that came my way was his wristwatch. It wasn't the watch I remembered him wearing from the earliest memories of my childhood, that had broken some years before, but it was nevertheless an important way to feel I was still keeping him close.

It was a regular feature on my wrist for about three years before it would inexplicably no longer keep time. Three repairs and three fails later were enough to drive home the fact the watch had served its purpose, but it remains a cherished, if now-still reminder of a person who was very important to me.

And, despite being broken, it is, as the old saying goes, still right twice a day.

Whether you rely on a wall-mounted timepiece, a traditional watch, a glance every once in a while at your preferred screen, or on wrist-mounted devices that can apparently do everything but take out your trash, this is a time of year where we find ourselves being clock-watchers a little more often than usual.

We're set to spring our clocks forward an hour in the wee hours of Sunday morning.

For some, losing an hour of sleep to gain an hour of daylight at the end of the day is a pretty good trade-off – and I'm not going to disagree. As a winter enthusiast, one inextricable element of the season that I absolutely loathe is leaving for work and coming home in the darkness.

For others, the change in time is nothing short of a drag as experts cite the havoc the adjustment has on our bodies, minds and souls, not to mention the increase in traffic accidents and other safety concerns that seem to be part and parcel of our spring-forward-fall-back cycle.

Whether you see it as gaining an hour of light or losing an hour of sleep is a matter of your perspective, although both are, of course, true – but as someone who tries to be optimistic wherever possible, falling back sometimes feels like it offers more possibilities.

You're gaining an hour, in theory. How are you going to spend it in practice?

Some like to luxuriate in bed on the morning of, the extra hour of sleep well-earned on a lazy Sunday. Others see it as a bonus hour and are eager to get up early to make the most of it, sometimes crowing about all the wonderful things they were able to cram into those 60 minutes "while the world slept."

This springing-forward is a bit of a mixed bag for me. While I'm one of those perhaps annoying people who sees the bonus hour as an opportunity, this season's time switch is getting me an hour closer to orthopaedic surgery for which I have been looking forward to for no less than 30 years!

That said, it's bringing me an hour closer to a not-until-you're-40 orthopedic surgery you've been looking forward to for no less than 30 years – and that's an hour that could be spent preparing, double-checking any checklists and, yes, even worrying!

The bright side? Come the fall, I'm certainly going to make the most of that lost hour when the powers-that-be return it to us!

But how much longer will we have to keep shuttling this single hour back and forth, regardless of its consequences to our physical, mental, and emotional health?

Our cousins in British Columbia have the right idea.

This week, everything aligned just right for our west-coasters to break the cycle of Daylight Savings Time and this Sunday's hour will be their last payment of 60 minutes without expecting a refund.

The switch in British Columbia is not without its critics, but what's of particular interest is they forged ahead with ditching the system on their own without waiting for the other jurisdictions, particularly Pacific Coast States, to get their acts together and follow suit.

The desire to ditch the system is just as strong in Ontario, but we're constantly told we can't make the switch until Quebec and New York are also on board, largely for economic reasons. But while opposition to "the ditch" is minimal in all three areas, it seems the leadership of the same jurisdictions are still waiting to see who is going to blink first.

Who'd have thunk the first to blink was British Columbia?

"The provincial government under former premier John Horgan passed legislation in 2019 to switch to permanent daylight time, but did not set a date for the change as it waited to coordinate with its counterparts in Washington, Oregon, and California," reported the Times Colonist on Monday. "Those states continue to do spring and autumn time changes. In the U.S., changing the system requires congressional approval.

"'We waited, and we waited, and we waited,' said [Premier David] Eby. 'I'm here to announce we're done waiting.' In a statement, the province said, 'recent actions from the U.S. have shifted how B.C. approaches decisions that merit alignment, including on time zones.'"

The long-term impacts of British Columbia going it alone will be seen over time, but, from my perspective, it sure feels like a step in the right direction.

In fact, it just might be change you can set your watch to.



Being or feeling "forever young"

by Mark Pavilons



Who is this man looking back at me in the mirror with bags under his eyes, Einstein-like hair and facial scruff?

It can't be me, can it? We all know the answer.

Maybe it's some grand marketing scheme, where substances are placed in the glass that exaggerate images or reflect them back with defects, to make us go out and buy rejuvenating cream, hair color or supplements.

Okay, it's age. But it's not just the passage of time and the creases it causes on the body. It's about the inner self.

That's what's weird about my latest mirror experiences. Inside, I'm nowhere what my driver's licence says. At times, I feel like a high school senior, and others like a frat boy. But this guy, starring back at me? That's not me.

Would a ponytail help? Maybe an earring or a tattoo? Leather pants? Don't laugh, I actually had a pair in my 20s.

My summer attire – colourful Hawaiian shirts – speak volumes about my out-going and carefree nature. But in reality, I'm more like the Kool-Aid Man, given my rotund mid-section.

According to Alphaville:

"It's so hard to get old without a cause

"I don't want to perish like a fading horse

"Youth's like diamonds in the sun

"And diamonds are forever."

I'm not talking about immortality and being "forever young." But I do admire seniors who look and act decades younger than their true age. In my opinion, to be youthful, and perhaps live upwards of 200 years, combined with wisdom, is the best scenario. With those who qualities, we would be unstoppable.

So, let's start a GoFundMe campaign to immortalize Boomers, tap their minds and extend their lives, for the betterment of all humankind. Who's with me?

"Wisdom is the reward for surviving our own stupidity," according to Brian Rathbone, Regent.

It's been said the wisest are the most annoyed by the passage of time. I don't know about you, but lately, my patience is wearing thin with the increasing number of idiots in this world. From tailgaters and speeders to just plain rudeness, my fellow humans are showing signs of wear and tear.

Some say men and women age differently, but many agree that life is written on your face. My laugh lines (that's I like to call them) and miles of bad road on my kisser were all well-earned.

Every line, dent, scar and wrinkle has a story to tell.

I'm so lucky in that my wife and her mom are quite youthful looking. On occasion, some people have asked my wife whether she's my daughter. Not sure whether to be insulted or impressed by that question. Regardless, some strong genes on that side.

In photos of my dad, the description that comes to mind is "stone face," a rather serious, careworn look. We've uncovered some family photos, circa the turn of the century, where men were complete with expressionless faces and those exquisite handlebar moustaches. The portraits look more like a group shot at a funeral, than a happy family occasion.

During my first chemo session, my wife snapped a pic of me and I looked just like my late uncle did in his 70s. Sure, I realize DNA sneaks up on you, but boy.

Being a bit of a foodie, I've learned that age is important when it comes to wine and cheese. I love cheese. Also, not everyone gets to age gracefully, or at all. Many don't make it into their 70s or 80s anymore.

Dr. Seuss once said that adults are obsolete children. But have you seen Dr. Seuss characters? What strange world of elongated and exaggerated features did these hail from? On second thought, seeing one of these peer back at me from the mirror may frighten me at first, but I'd get a good, hearty chuckle at it.

When you think about it, humans are the only creatures on earth who are concerned about youth, longevity, looking good and achieving some sort of status.

For our lower-level mammal friends, their skills and intelligence are directed towards food, shelter, safety and the pod or family. Yes, there's a hierarchy, but it's one set by nature and the alpha takes on the responsibility of leader.

They don't have an ego (or so we believe), so they merely do their job as nature intended. They lead, protect, provide and often bark out orders or directives. I don't think they spend a lot of time preening or looking at their image in the calm pond waters and remark how good looking they are.

And they likely don't do any soul-searching or take stock of their lives.

I doubt whether animals have the same concept of time as we do, and they sure don't understand the nature of the universe or the unique aspects of time and space. Well, I'd keep an eye on dolphins and octopuses because I'm positive they aren't telling us everything.

Luis Barragan once said that a garden must "combine the poetic and the mysterious with a feeling of serenity and joy."

We are our own gardeners and I believe we all have a bit of mystery and poetry in our lives.

We've all experienced joy. Serenity, well that's a tough one.

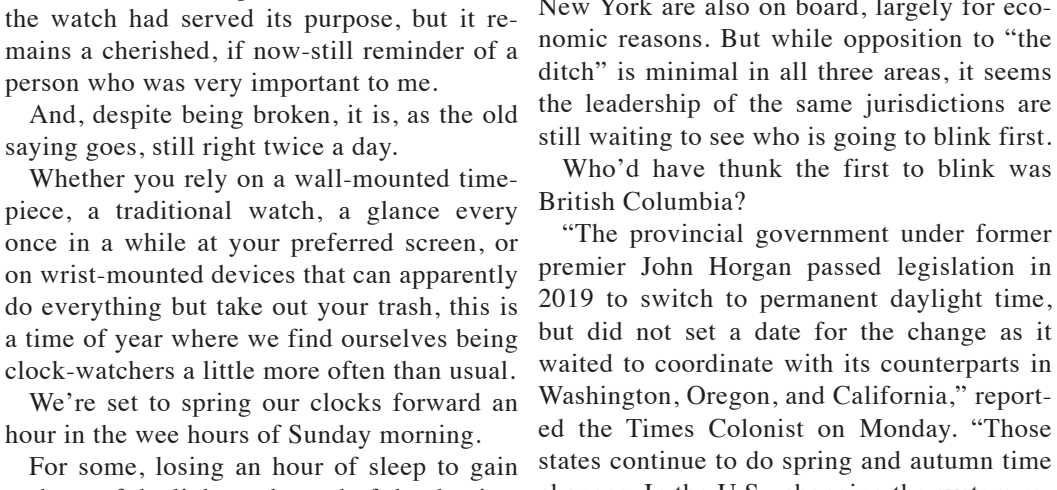
Maybe we're all mistaking youth for inner qualities that outlast all others. Age means nothing, but if we're filled with peace, calm, compassion, honesty, motivation and contentment, then I think we've partly mastered this thing called life.

Our mirrors won't reflect back what we could be or should be. But that strange, light-bending optic device may show us the way. It may indicate it's time for a change, a change of diet, attitude, approach or demeanor.

I may not give my mirror self the thumbs-up or finger gun salute, but I may not hate him so. He may be on to something.

If only there's a device to look through us, into us, and find that joyful, rambunctious child. I'd love it if we could get those x-ray glasses at the back of comic books and see into a person's soul and witness their goodness.

Then we'd have no use for mirrors at all!



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Caledon Citizen

GENERAL MANAGER
Zach Shoub
zach@lpcmedia.ca

EDITOR
Brock Weir
brock@lpcmedia.ca

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Mary Speck admin@caledoncitizen.com

REPORTERS
Riley Murphy
riley@lpcmedia.ca

MOTORING
Heather Erwin
heather@caledoncitizen.com

SPORTS
Jim Stewart
jim@lpcmedia.ca

DISPLAY ADVERTISING
Erin Luckett
erin@lpcmedia.ca
Vicki Meisner
vicki@lpcmedia.ca
Melinda Crake
melinda@lpcmedia.ca

PRODUCTION
John Speziali

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IWD

Do you know what the letters "IWD" stand for? In an absolutely perfect world (and goodness knows we are far from that) every single person would know that IWD is the acronym for International Women's Day. Better yet, every single person would also understand the significance of both the date and of recognizing the HUMAN rights of essentially 50% of the planet. Yet here we are. It is decidedly not a perfect world and so we will continue to write about, and call attention to, International Women's Day every year, with the hopes that at some point in history, it may no longer be necessary. "Per chance to dream," as Shakespeare once wrote.

International Women's Day is on March 8, although you may see events happening throughout the week leading up to it. Locally, Family Transition Place hosts an annual fundraising event celebrating the day, this year taking place today (if in fact you're reading this paper on publication day) at the Hockley Valley Resort. So too is the Town of Caledon's Economic Development Department hosting a special event recognizing Women in Business, with keynote speaker Kiran Mann, the CEO of Brar's. Such events are an important opportunity to recognize the vital role that women and girls play in the socio-economic, political, cultural, and environmental fabric of the world.

This year's theme is #givetogain, emphasizing the power of reciprocity and support. It's the simple idea that when we all support one another, when people and organizations and communities come together in giving, "opportunities and support for women increase." Further, it supports the idea that "when women thrive, we all rise." Excuse the sarcasm, but what a novel concept! Imagine a world where men recognise the importance of women's contributions to the world around us. We're getting there, sure, but there's still a long way to go.

To be clear, I'm using the language of "women and girls" on this day, and very specifically, for the purposes of highlighting the unequal balance of power between men and women, and one of the most often-cited results of that imbalance, gender-based violence. Of course, if we had more time and space, any discussion of gender politics would take a far more inclusive and intersectional approach and would also include conversations about how these issues impact not just gender, but also race, sexuality, human rights and workplace inequities.

I say this because while I strive to be clear AND inclusive at the same time, I'm not sure it's possible. I'm certainly not a leading expert in gender politics, nor gender studies. Instead, I'm a woman; a mom, a former volunteer board member at Family Transition Place and on this day, (IWD) and with this column, I seek only to magnify some of the ongoing issues impacting women and girls. These include human trafficking which is at an all-time high here in Peel Region. These include gender-based violence, as evidenced by the many programs and services offered by FTP and others like them, which are always at maximum capacity. These also include other issues like the continuing gap, at all levels of government, between the number of women vs. the number of men holding public office.

Some of the statistics are overwhelming. In terms of human trafficking, Ontario accounts for more than half of all human trafficking cases in Canada, and the GTA and its proximity to all major highways and the airport, make it a "sex trafficking hotspot" allowing for the "easy movement of victims across Ontario and Canada." In Peel Region alone, human trafficking rates increased by 60% in just one year! The average age of a victim is between just 12 years old and 24 years.

The statistics around intimate partner violence are no less startling with, on average, one woman in Canada killed every six days by an intimate partner. That's 60 women (and sometimes children) dead as a direct result of intimate partner violence every year. Has progress been made? Sure. Is it enough? Not even close. Politically, where perhaps the equitable distribution of voices at decision-making tables might have the most impact, the organization known as Equal Voice "is working to improve gender representation through training and advocacy to 30% by 2030." I'm not even sure how to feel about that statistic. Encouraged? Shouldn't we already be there? Shouldn't we already be at 50%?

Clearly, we have work to do here at home and yet for so many more women and girls around the world, it is almost unfathomable how much worse it can be. That's why we have to have an International Women's Day. It's why we have to continue the clarion call for action against gender-based violence and continually act as a voice for the voiceless. It's why we should take up the theme of this year's IWD celebrations, #givetogain and support, where we can, the organizations who provide support, services and yes, even hope, to women and girls because "when women thrive, we all rise."

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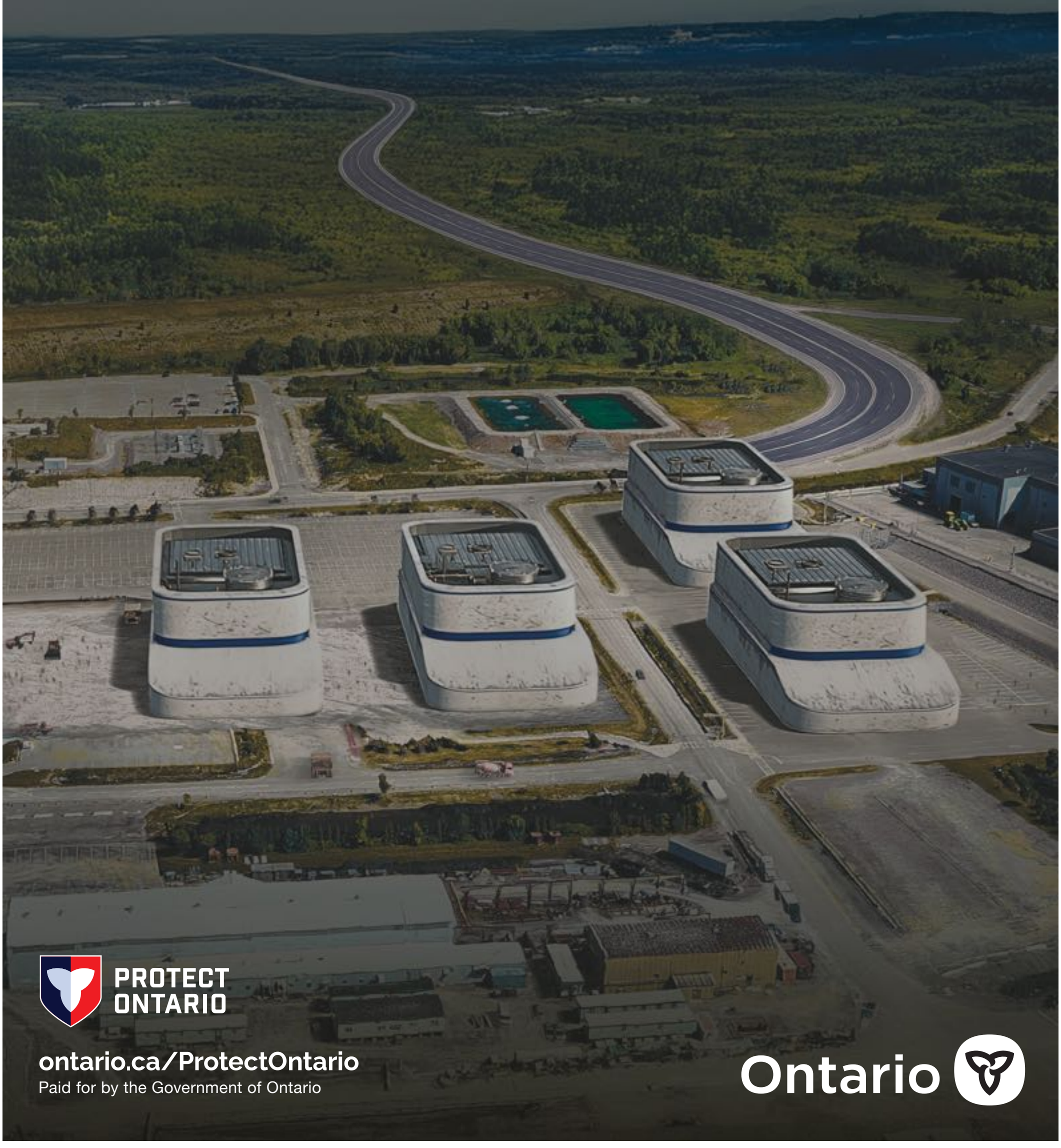
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Peel Partners present workshop aimed at online safety

Continued from FRONT

Beginning the night was Michelle Stubbings with the Peel District School Board.

She explained the partnership came together because they know that growing up in an online environment for children is constantly changing, and, as parents and caregivers, with all the new apps and platforms available, their role as adults is even more important.

"Tonight is about learning together, about asking questions, and strengthening the strategies that we use to ensure the safety of our young ones as they navigate the digital world with confidence and security," said Stubbings.

She explained when children have devices such as phones, they are exposed to significant risks, and being aware of these risks will help mitigate them in future scenarios.

Child safety online, Stubbings said, is a shared responsibility among school boards, families, and community partners.

She encouraged keeping conversations open with children about these online risks, adding that how adults respond in such situations is crucial.

Dangers of the online world include luring, extortion and sextortion, impersonation and more.

The workshop also pointed out signs that your child may be experiencing one of these risks, such as new friends out of the blue, unexplained possessions, and high shifts in mood. All of these changes present opportunities to engage with your child.

"The relationships that we have with our children supersede everything. The teen years are difficult to navigate, and so having those trusting, open relationships with our children is super important, and we need to be honest and open and willing to hear what they are telling us," said Stubbings.

She also presented safety tips for children of different ages.

For kindergarten through Grade 5, this includes asking for permission before you post, using unique usernames, being kind online, only playing age-appropriate games and apps, staying on approved websites, using privacy settings together, and more.

For Grades 6 to 12, they recommend guarding your digital identity, knowing how to report and block, recognizing cyberbullying, understanding digital footprints, and more.

"We teach children in schools that the internet doesn't forget," she adds.

At PDSB, she says, they "do a million and one things to keep our children safe online," including a multi-layered approach to awareness, social work support, online reporting tools, and more.

"It's important that as educators in front of your children, we are also aware of the dangers that our children are facing," she said

The conversations around sex trafficking, she says, being in Grade 6, "with more education in our classrooms, we're finding that peers are reporting their peers who are involved in trafficking."

On the topic of sex trafficking, the Region of Peel's Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Strategy was presented, specifically on sextortion.

Sextortion is the practice of extorting money or sexual favours from someone by threatening to reveal evidence of their sexual activity.

A representative from the Region of Peel's Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Strategy said for kids and teens, the internet is a big community, and a lot of the children and teenagers that they speak to will say that their best friend is someone that they've never met in their life.

Presented were red flags kids need to watch out for, such as a person not sharing any information about themselves, asking for exchanges to be kept a secret, buying lots of gifts, asking for or sending unsolicited nude photos, or interactions that promise to give you money or goods "really fast."

In each app a child might play on, or in social media apps, it was said that privacy settings are often built in that parents can activate.

It's recommended that location services be turned off, and kids should feel comfortable blocking anyone who makes them feel unsafe or presents red flags.

It was also said that computers should be kept in common spaces, that kids should avoid sending any pictures that include their faces, that kids should be taught not to click on advertisements, and that kids should be aware of the dangers of a digital footprint.

Getting into teen years, these exploiters often turn to romantic relationships as well, which can be dangerous for teens looking for that sense of belonging, it was explained.

"It's not that children and teens just can't figure out what's going on or they didn't respond properly. These people make a living out of targeting, finding vulnerabilities, and then exploiting that vulnerability," said the representative.

If any of these dangers present themselves to your children, it's recommended that they block or shut it down and make a report.

Extortion-related incidents can be reported to Cybertip, and if explicit images are posted, Take It Down is a free service that can help you remove or stop the online sharing.

Joy Brown, with Peel Police, worked as a police officer for decades and now works in community safety and well-being and presented on the dangers of sex trafficking, which she said is 93% domestic.

"It is really in our backyard."

The majority are between 12 and 24, but they have been as low as 10.

"Victims are often vulnerable due to mental health issues, previous trauma, family instability, drugs, alcohol, poverty, and low self-esteem," explained Brown.

Traffickers can present as a friend, a romantic interest, or even a professional, offering children jobs.

It also happens through social media such as Instagram and Snapchat.

A large part of the workshop was discussing services available to families experiencing any of these dangers.

Sylvia Kolitsopoulos. Service Director, Advice and Assessment with Peel Children's Aid Society, discussed supports to help prevent some of these dangers.

The Peel CAS building, now dubbed The Circle, brings together a variety of community partners within it to wrap around those who need these supports.

They also have youth wellness hubs and various programs to help bring together children and youth in the community and to assist with preventive measures against digital dangers.

Dani Mills, director of Our Place Peel and speaking on nCourage, an Anti-Human Trafficking Integrated Service Hub in the Region of Peel, talked about how youth in these situations are not alone.

At nCourage, they provide wraparound support and aim to create low or no barriers to accessing supports and services.

"Everything from immediate basic needs and care. Systems are quite complex and difficult even for us as adults to navigate. We take that burden off of the young people and their families and do all the coordination," said Mills.

A big component is safety and risk assessment. As Mills explained, many of the risks and vulnerabilities are preyed upon; they work to identify these risks and create a safety plan for each family or individual.

Cecilia Lapadula with EFRY Hope and Help for Women highlighted programs EFRY offers not just for those exiting an exploitative or human trafficking situation, but also programs that provide ongoing outreach support.

Lastly, Barb Patten from Peel Public Health closed the workshop, discussed healthy relationships with our devices.

She touched on having emotional check-ins and taking note of how your phone is impacting you physically and mentally.

"We need to learn how to negotiate this world, and it's only ever evolving. It's hard to stay one step ahead," says Patten. "It's imperative that we talk to them about the risks of being online and how to stay safe."

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Caledon's Kristin Della Rovere reflects on her magical moments in Milan as an Olympic scoring hero for Team Italy

BY JIM STEWART

Kristin Della Rovere's list of enviable achievements continues to grow.

The Caledon East-born forward's collegiate and pro hockey journey has taken her to Boston, Ottawa, Milan, and Toronto where she:

- Played NCAA Division 1 hockey for the Harvard Crimson;
- Competed in the PWHL's inaugural year in front of big crowds in the nation's capital as the league's youngest player;
- Starred for the host club at the 2026 Winter Olympics by scoring two goals and two assists in five games including the the game-winning goal versus Team Japan to send Team Italy (2-2) to the tournament's quarterfinals for the first time;
- Settled into her sophomore year in the PWHL with the Toronto Sceptres—surrounded by veteran teammates who are pushing for a playoff spot in the expanded league.

Della Rovere, back home in Canada after her Olympic adventure, took time from her busy professional hockey schedule to discuss the highlights of playing for Team Italy.

She described the context for her game-winning goal against Japan which qualified Italy for the Olympic quarterfinals against Team USA.

"Going into the tournament, nobody believed in us and most thought we'd go 0-4. In the game versus Japan—the last period was one of the most intense I've ever been a part of. Being able to have an impact was incredible. That goal gave us a 3-1 lead. We held off a 6-on-5 at the end. Every player had a pivotal role. I was proud of the girls because we proved we belonged on the biggest stage."

Della Rovere's upstart squad faced Team USA in the quarters and she described the Americans' level of play.

"We respected them, but we weren't afraid of them. They're an incredible hockey team made up of great players on one of the best teams ever created. I played against many of them in the PW and in College. Our quarterfinal game was a dogfight—words were exchanged, but we didn't back down. Our goalie was outstanding – we were outshot by a wide margin. When you saw our roster on paper, it wouldn't stand out, but our younger players were battling and every one played their role. Our team's best young player, Matilde Fantin, is only 19 and a freshman at Penn State. They all picked up valuable experience, the game itself was fun, and we had a blast."

The current Toronto Sceptre responded thoughtfully about how her starring role for Team Italy in Europe would affect her professional hockey career back in North America.

"I obviously have goals and dreams for my pro career in the PW. I'm not satisfied with where I am, but I hope to carry all this confidence forward. It's cool to be here in Toronto. It's a different group than last year, but to play for a Toronto team is really cool. I've come full circle with my childhood dreams—now I'm playing pro hockey for Toronto."

Della Rovere compared playing in Ottawa during the PWHL's first season and in Toronto during the league's second season.

"In Ottawa, it was the first year—it was historical and it was special to play in front of big crowds. Playing against the best players in the world, especially as the youngest player in the league, and to be mentored by pro players was a great experience. In Toronto, it's a more comfortable experience in my second season. The players here are teammates, not just idols."



Caledon East's Kristin Dalla Rovere (19) scored two goals and two assists, including a GWG, to help Team Italy qualify for its first Olympic quarterfinal berth. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It's evident that Della Rovere has made lasting memories in her first two years in the PWHL, but when asked about the highlight of her Olympic experience, the Caledon East native described the connection with the fans while playing for Italy's national team in Milan.

"The memory that sticks with me is that not many Olympians get to represent the host country. We skated a lap around the rink after our win over France in our first game. Our games were sold out for the rest of the tournament. We made history and left a legacy for future teams. It was very emotional—seeing the level of support we received in all five games."

After starring for Team Italy at the Olympics, Della Rovere will reprise her role and pull on her Italia jersey at the IIHF World Championships starting on April 11, after completing her second season in the PWHL.

Admirals lose heartbreaker to Buzzers in OT to close 2025-26 season

BY JIM STEWART

The Caledon Admirals led the playoff-bound St. Michael's Buzzers from the 35-second mark of the first period all the way to the last four seconds of the third period on Thursday night at the Mayfield Recreation Complex.

Unfortunately, the Admirals surrendered the tying goal to Buzzers forward Caiden Clair at 19:56 with the visitors pressing on the power play.

The 7th-place OJHL East club tallied the winning goal 22 seconds into overtime when Josh Caloiero beat Admirals goaltender Patrick Sutherland to sink the Fleet 6-5. It was Caledon's fifth OT loss of the season.

Admirals Captain Braeden Van Gelder's goal 35 seconds into the game gave the home side the quick start it was looking for—earning Clarence Allain his team-leading 35th assist.

Less than one minute later, Aiden O'Toole tallied his 27th of the season to pull the visitors into a 1-1 tie.

Six minutes into the period, Caledon centre Jack Fang restored Caledon's one-goal lead when he beat Buzzers goaltender Erik Maki.

Clair's first goal of the game—at 16:46—tied it 2-2, but Admirals rugged forward Braylon Masulka put the home side ahead 13 seconds later in the see-saw first period of play.

Masulka's marker chased Maki from the game and Jonathan Frattaroli took his spot between the pipes for the Buzzers. It was one of the turning points of the game as Frattaroli turned aside 32 of the 34 shots he faced by the hard-driving Caledon offence, including one in OT that set up the game-winner seconds later.

3:33 into the second period, Jacob Owsicki's 10th of the season beat Frattaroli, and staked Caledon to a 4-2 lead.

However, O'Toole banged in his second of the contest to pull St. Mike's to within one midway through the middle frame.

Xavvier Rowe's short-handed goal with 36 seconds left before second intermission restored some breathing room for the Admirals and they took a 5-3 lead into the final frame.

Alas, Frattaroli turned aside all 12 shots he faced in the third period and Vasilis Economopoulos was set up by O'Toole's 51st assist of the season at 11:15 to pull the visitors within one, setting the stage for Clair's last second heroics, Caloiero's quick goal in OT, and a whole bunch of heartbreak for the hard-working Admirals.

The ninth-place Admirals finished the season 21-29-1-5—a marked improvement in performance from a year ago when The Fleet was grounded in the basement of the OJHL West.

The Fleet's Top Scorers

The Admirals' entertaining brand of hockey in 2025-26 was spearheaded by a quartet of productive scorers who provided many memorable moments during the 56-game campaign.

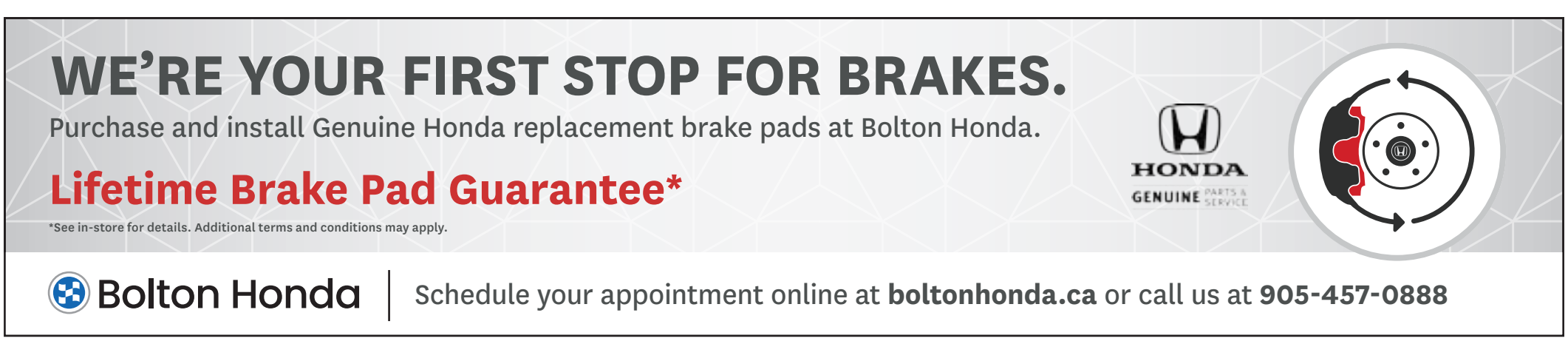
Nolan Keeler led The Fleet with 27 goals and 34 assists for 61 points which tied him for 19th in the scoring race going into the final weekend of the OJHL season. He also set an OJHL record with four shorthanded goals in one game.

Caledon also featured three members of "The 50-Point Club" led by Cam Lang who tallied 21 goals and 32 assists for 53 points.

Curtis Freeman accrued 52 points on 21 goals and 31 assists as the club's third most productive scorer in 48 games played.

Ironman Clarence Allain played in all 56 of his team's games and was the club's most prolific playmaker with 35 assists to go with 15 goals to nudge his way to the 50-point plateau.





OPP WARNS OF CRA SCAMS

Continued from Page A4

Common Tactics Used in CRA Scams

Residents should be cautious if they receive:

- Emails or text messages with links urging you to «claim your refund,» «update your tax account,» or «avoid account suspension.» Scammers often use threats or promises of refunds to pressure victims into clicking fraudulent links;
- Phone calls demanding immediate payment or threatening arrest, deportation, or legal action-tactics scammers commonly use to intimidate victims. The CRA states it will never threaten arrest or use aggressive language;
- Fake websites imitating CRA login pages, often using unusual domain endings or extra characters (e.g., «cra-login-canada.com» or «crareturnreview.cfd"). Official CRA sites always start with canada.ca or end in .gc.ca

How to Recognize a Scam

You may be dealing with a scam if someone:

- Sends you a link and asks you to click it;
- Requests personal details such as SIN, banking information, or passport numbers. Scammers frequently claim this information is needed to release a refund or confirm eligibility;
- Asks for payment by cryptocurrency, gift cards, or e transfer which are methods the CRA does not accept;
- Claims to be calling from the CRA but refuses to provide a callback number or identity verification.

Protect Yourself

- Do not click on links in emails or texts claiming to be from CRA or tax software providers;
- Verify communications by contacting the CRA directly using the official numbers listed on Canada.ca;
- Check the web address carefully before logging into any tax related portal;
- Monitor your CRA MyAccount regularly for suspicious activity;
- Report scams to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at antifraudcentre.ca.

If You're Unsure

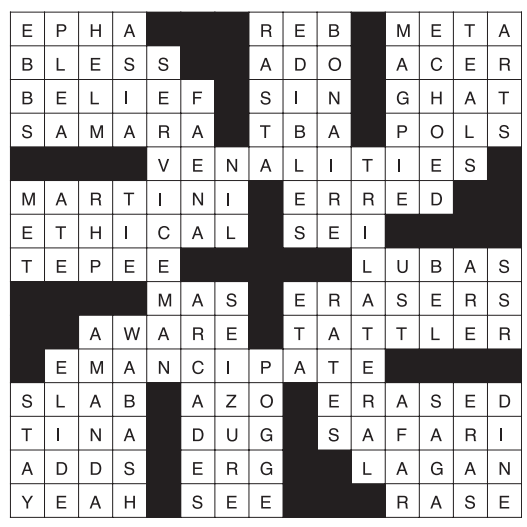
- Hang up, delete the message, and contact CRA yourself;
- Consult family, friends, or trusted community members before acting on unexpected tax-related communications-especially if messages feel urgent or threatening.

If you believe you have been targeted by a CRA related scam, whether or not you shared personal information, you are urged to report the matter. The Canadian Anti Fraud Centre advises all Canadians to report any scam or attempted scam, even if no money was lost. Reporting helps law enforcement identify patterns and prevent further victimization.

Victims should:

- Report the incident to the Canadian Anti Fraud Centre at antifraudcentre.ca or by phone;
- Contact the CRA directly if you believe your tax account or personal information may have been compromised. CRA provides guidance on what to do if you suspect identity theft, including monitoring and protecting your CRA accounts;
- Preserve any suspicious emails, texts, or call details to assist investigators.

The OPP reminds residents that they are not alone. Fraudsters are highly sophisticated, and anyone can fall victim. Prompt reporting is essential in helping police and federal agencies combat these crimes and keep our communities safe.



OBITUARIES - FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*

PETER HAROLD BELL

APRIL 20, 1941 – FEBRUARY 13, 2026



Peter, born on April 20, 1941, in Brampton, grew up in Cataract. After just six weeks of high school, he decided that was enough and embarked on his career as an entrepreneur, exploring many options in his earlier years.

Peter sold and delivered baled shavings and hay from South River before he was even 16 years old. He hauled blocks for Peel Block, bought and sold cedar rail posts from Manitoulin Island, trucked potatoes from Alliston and hauled equipment for many from all over.

In 1968, Peter married Marjorie (nee Gray), who passed away in 2009. Peter and Marjorie had two sons, Craig (D-2013) and Darryl and blended their family with sons Gary, Brent (D-2021), Paul, and Mark.

Peter purchased 100 acres in Mono Township, five miles north of Orangeville on Highway 10 in 1966 and from there he began buying and selling farm and industrial equipment, which he continued to this day.

Peter possessed a sharp mind for numbers and a keen eye for a good deal. He frequented equipment auctions and sales across the province, never missing a Saturday auction and amassing a unique collection of goods. He was known for his hard bargaining skills and unwavering commitment to his prices.

Peter also provided valuable financial solutions as a private lender to many when traditional banks were not an option, helping to make homeownership a reality.

Peter was old fashioned and still enjoyed reading newspapers from all over and listening to radio broadcasts for the latest news and weather updates. Peter didn't mind driving many miles to pick up the papers from small communities and stopping to check out potential deals and tend to his many properties along the way. He was fond of drinking strong beer and had a wicked sweet tooth for chocolate milk and Chapman's ice cream.

He will be deeply missed and remembered by his numerous associates across the province, friends, neighbours, and family.

Peter is survived by his son Darryl (Coralee), daughter-in-law Debbie (Craig, predeceased), and stepsons Gary (Bettina), Paul (Patty), and Mark as well as grandchildren Jeffrey, Amy, Adam (Jayda), Tyler, Tonya, Sean (Melissa), Dustin, Rio (Kaleigh) and Carter, and eight great-grandchildren.

Peter was the son of Harold Thomas (D-1981) and Doris (nee Moore) (D-1961) Bell, brother of Diana (D-2018).

The family would like to thank the nurses of E Wing at Headwaters Health Care Centre, and Dr. Akula for their compassionate care in the last few weeks of Peter's life.

As expressions of sympathy donations to Bethell House Hospice or Matthews House Hospice would be appreciated.

A Celebration of Peter's Life will be held at In Memoriam Funeral Services Inc. (28 Main St N, Grand Valley). on Saturday, March 14, 2026. from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Online condolences can be made at www.imfunerals.com

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

EDNA MARY MACDONALD (NEE WILSON)

On Wednesday, January 28, 2026, Edna Mary MacDonald (nee Wilson) passed away peacefully in her 92nd year following a brief illness. During the night, the clouds lifted, and the angels ushered Edna to heaven.

Edna was the loving wife and dearest friend to her husband Jack (2021) for nearly 69 years. Edna was the loving mother to Andy MacDonald and his wife, Erin O'Flynn and Wendy Empey and her husband, Terry Empey. She was a devoted and very proud grandmother to Amanda (nee Empey) and Kevin Bruce; Hayley (nee Empey) and Kyle Weszner; Alannah (nee MacDonald) and Michael Gillan; Bret and Ashley MacDonald (nee Morrison). Edna's great-grandchildren, Madison, Blake and Ava Weszner; Lucas Bruce; and Bridget and Chelsea Gillan filled her heart with love and will carry on the legacy that Edna and Jack built.

Dear daughter of the late James and Louise Wilson (nee Fieldhouse). Predeceased by her cherished sisters, Mildred Ward (Earl), Grace Tennant (Ted), Ruth Workman (Herb) and her adored brothers Lorne Wilson (Joanne) and Robert (Bert) Wilson. Edna is survived by her brother Ken Wilson and his wife Judy Brown along with sister-in-law Helen Wilson (Bert).

Edna worked for Lorne Wilson Transportation for 33 years, driving a bus and then in the office.

Edna and Jack shared their love to travel and loved being with their many lifelong friends and shared many stories of their adventures.

Edna lived a life filled with kindness, strength and generosity. She was a lifelong volunteer and very active in her community. She was especially proud of her association with Mayfield United Church as President and life member of the UCW, choir member, Sunday School teacher, treasurer and Member of Session. She continued this association even after moving to Cedarview Retirement Living in Woodstock (2020) where she became Ambassador to new residents and met many new friends.

Edna was Past President and lifelong member of the Snelgrove Women's Institute, 4-H leader, Brampton Fair Board member, Canadian Blood Services volunteer, baseball coach and most importantly, someone who was always there to help anyone in need. Edna drove cancer patients to Toronto for their treatment. Volunteering helped Edna give back for all her many blessings.

Edna was loved by many and was often seen as a surrogate mom and a loyal friend.

She loved a good laugh and a competitive game of cards. A family gathering wasn't complete without a game of books and runs.

She will be greatly missed by all the lives she touched along her incredible journey and especially for her famous sourdough tea biscuits.

Our sincere thanks to the Nurses at Woodstock Hospital and to Dr. Vu for Mom's care. We appreciate all they did to provide comfort to our mom and our family and to the ones who came to visit Mom while she was in the hospital.

The family will receive their friends at Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street South, Bolton (905-857-2213) on **Friday, March 27th**, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Funeral will be held in the chapel on **Saturday, March 28th** at 11:00 a.m.

Celebration of Life for both Edna and Jack will follow funeral service at Egan Funeral Home. Spring Interment at Dixon's Union Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Mayfield United Church, 12496 Dixie Road, Caledon L7C 2L7 (www.mayfieldunitedchurch.org) or S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation, 12801 Bramalea Road, Caledon L7C 2R1 (www.shareagfoundation.org).

Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com.

SHIRLEY ANNE HALL (NEE MEUNIER)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Shirley Hall on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at the age of 79. Beloved wife of Larry. Dear mother of the late Kenneth, late Joseph, Donna (Dan) and Terry (Kathy). Cherished grandmother of Kenny, Vickie, Robbie, Micheal, Steven. Beloved great-grandmother of Darius, Destiny, Ava, Elise, Aiden and Tristan. She will be missed by her brother George (Sharon) and David Meunier; predeceased by her parents Urgel & Norma Meunier and her sister Rose. Shirley will be dearly missed by Chrystal. Shirley will also be greatly missed by other relatives and many friends.

Funeral Service will be held at Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre 21 First St Orangeville, Ontario on Saturday, March 7th, 2026 at 2:30 pm. Visitation will begin at 1:30 pm.

Memorial donations to High Country United Church would be appreciated by the family.

A tree will be planted in memory of Shirley in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville.

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

RALPH BARTELLO

Ralph Bartello passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 22, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Ralph will be deeply missed and forever cherished by his devoted son Davin (Noor), his beloved daughter, Melissa; and his treasured grandchildren Garrett (Ludi), Mitchell, Liam (Flo) and Lexi. He also leaves behind two precious great-grandchildren, Fay and Leighton, and Ralph's sister Helen whose lives carry forward his spirit and memory.

Ralph was a man whose presence brought strength, warmth, and quiet wisdom to those around him. He loved to pass the time with a good game of chess, cribbage and scrabble. Ralph loved to listen to classical music and himself was very musical and played the clarinet, saxophone, banjo and guitar.

Though he has passed from this life, Ralph's memory lives on in the hearts of those who loved him, from the many meals around a table at home or at his favourite restaurants. He will be remembered with love, gratitude, and deep respect.

The family received their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S., Bolton for a memorial visitation on Friday, February 27 from 4 to 7pm. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

GWENDOLEN AUDREY BOUGHEN

MEMBER VALLEY CHAPTER NO. 297 O.E.S., CALEDON EAST FOR 65 YEARS

LIFE MEMBER OF ORPHAH CHAPTER NO. 102 O.E.S., LONDON

RETIRED MEMBER DAUGHTERS OF THE NILE

Peacefully passed away with her family by her side at Extendicare Brampton, on Thursday, February 26, 2026, Gwendolen Boughen, at the age of 93 years. Beloved daughter of the late Gladys and Stanley Boughen. Gwen grew up with four brothers, Raymond (Claire) (both deceased), Donald (Margaret), Wally, Stanley (Pat) (both deceased). She will be remembered by many nieces, nephews and extended family. Gwen shared a special bond with her sister-in-law, Marg and niece, Lesley and treasured the time they spent together.

Gwen enjoyed a long career at Pfizer and had many interests and talents. She loved to travel, knit, crochet, arrange flowers, and bake. She also found great joy in spending time at her cottage.

Heartfelt thanks to the staff at Extendicare Brampton, especially the team in Heartlake wing, for their compassionate care and kindness.

The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) for a memorial reception on Friday, March 6 from 2 – 4 o'clock. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Shriners Children's Hospital (www.shrinerschildrens.org). Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

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Application Deadline: Friday, March 20, 2026 at 5:00 pm

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Orangeville Hydro Limited Public Call for Board of Director Applications

Orangeville Hydro Limited is seeking an individual to serve as an active member on the Board of Directors. There is one (1) open position on the Board of Directors for up to a three (3) year term.

For further information, visit orangeville.ca/jobs. Application deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2026.

Applications may be submitted online at orangeville.ca/jobs, or in person to the Town Hall located at 87 Broadway.

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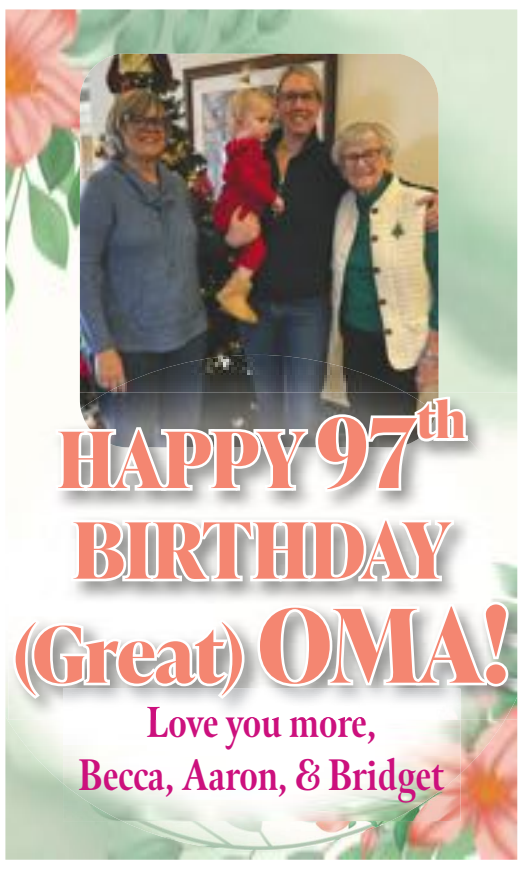
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Mount Hope West Secondary Plan approval means potentially 900 new residential units

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

At February's Caledon Council Meeting, the proposed Official Plan amendment for Mount Hope West Secondary Plan was approved.

With the approval of the plan amendment, there was also a Council endorsement of the Tertiary Plan of the Secondary Plan, with recognition that further revisions will occur through staff and agency approval of updated and revised technical studies.

A tertiary plan is a site-specific planning document that provides guidance for a specific geographic area, also acting as a bridge between high-level Secondary Plans and individual development applications.

Back in June of 2024, Council passed a Zoning By-law Amendment to rezone the Mount Hope West Area for residential and mixed-use development, alongside the continued protection of environmental policy areas.

The Official Plan Amendment application was then submitted by SGL Planning & Design Inc., on behalf of United Holdings Inc., in February of 2025, with supplementary materials submitted on July 8, 2025.

The application was deemed complete in July of 2025, and a second partial submission was received on January 16, 2025.

The Mount Hope West Secondary Plan land is located on the northwest corner of Mount Hope Road and Columbia Way and is approximately 81.5 acres.

The applicant proposes a range of residential units, a commercial block, stormwater management ponds, a park, natural heritage system blocks and a road network as part of the proposed draft plan of subdivision.

This secondary plan includes the development of a community with a range of 900 new residential units and a population of over 2,800 people.

With this plan, the school boards have advised that no new public or Catholic schools are required in the Secondary Plan area.

During the public meeting for the proposed plan, residents voiced concerns about a proposed mid-rise/high-rise block, which, through a Staff Report, stated that "the revised Secondary Plan Official Plan Amendment has removed the mid-rise/high-rise block from the plan area."

Concerns from residents also included parking and snow removal, bike paths, roadways, and more.

Many of these concerns were stated to be addressed during the Draft Plan of Subdivision review process, where Staff will review.

The June 2025 Planning Justification report by SGL Planning & Design Inc., says that the Town of Caledon's Growth Management and Phasing Plan has identified Mount Hope West as part of Phase 1 of New Community Area development, which is intended to accommodate growth from

2026 to 2036.

It also states that as part of the Town's amendment to the Future Caledon Official Plan

brought forward in March 2025, lands within Phase 1 are "development priority areas" for the period from 2026 to 2036, and secondary planning should be prioritized and advanced for lands within Phase 1 – Phase 1 meaning 2026 to 2036.

During a February 10 Planning and Development meeting, where the proposed Official Plan amendment for the Mount Hope West Secondary Plan was first approved, pending final approval at the February 24 Council Meeting, various residents came forward to voice concerns about watershed studies and the environmental impacts of the proposed plan.

Staff clarified at the meeting that they have both received studies from the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and have also included certain policies in the Secondary Plan that provide flexibility.

"They do indicate that prior to any type of development on these lands, the final studies and the final findings may result in some refinement of the natural heritage features and system. There may be some refinements to the development limits, but nothing that we've assumed are major," said staff at the meeting, adding that there may absolutely be changes in the future, as one of the recommendations in the motion allows staff flexibility to make changes as additional information comes in.

At the meeting, staff also shared that the development will be done in phases to "address the availability of services."

Currently, they said they can service 300 units.

At the meeting, Mayor Annette Groves said they are looking at construction to commence because they will be constructing interim booster pumping stations and other services needed to service the 300 units, "and all that is already in process and in progress and construction is planned to commence 2026 and is scheduled to commence in 2029."

The reasoning for bringing these applications forward, it was explained, was partly to secure funding and access to the allocated funding.

In June of 2025, Peel Regional Council approved a 50 per cent reduction in development charges for Caledon, Brampton, and Mississauga from July 2025 to November 2026 to accelerate housing construction with a $1.3 billion commitment from the Ontario government to offset revenue losses.

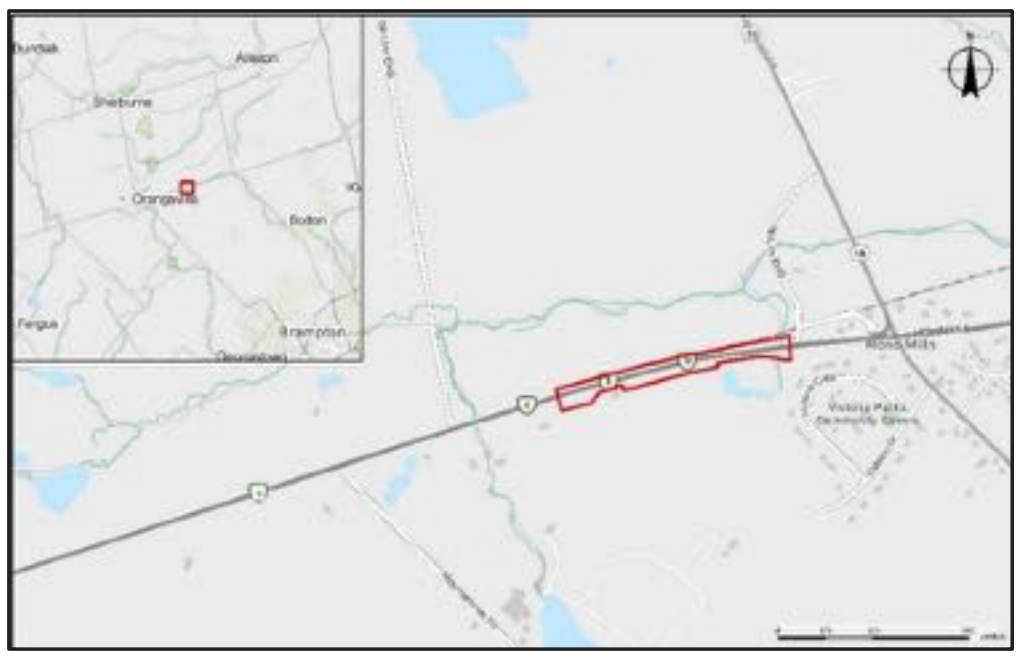
"I think that this is a way forward…this is not over. This is just the beginning," said Groves at the February 10 meeting, adding that just because the approval comes that day doesn't mean building starts tomorrow."

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

Preliminary Design, Detail Design and Environmental Class Assessment for the Introduction of a Right Turn Taper on Highway 9 (GWP 2045-24-00), in the Town of Caledon

PROJECT OVERVIEW

D.M. Wills Associates Limited (Wills) has been retained by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to undertake the Preliminary Design, Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment for the Introduction of a right turn taper, parallel lane, and entrance on the south side of Highway 9 west of Airport Road, in the Town of Caledon.



The Project includes the construction of a right-turn taper, parallel lane, and entrance into the future Runnymede Health Centre, Post Traumatic Stress Injury facility. The facility is proposed to be located on the south side of Highway 9, west of Airport Road in the Mono Mills area within the Town of Caledon, Peel Region.

PROCESS

The Project is following the approved planning process for Group C projects in accordance with the MTO *Class Environmental Assessment* (EA) *for Provincial Transportation Facilities and Municipal Expressways* (2024) with the opportunity for public input throughout. A Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared, with notices of study submission posted at the time of submission to explain the review process and identify locations where the TESR will be available for a 30-day public and agency review period.

A Project Website has been created with Project information and can be accessed at

www.hwy9runnymedehealth.ca

COMMENTS

External agency and public consultation will take place throughout the Project. We are interested in receiving your input at any point during the study. If you wish to submit comments, or be added to the Project mailing list, please contact any one of the Project team members below:

Gord Krieger, P.Eng.
Consultant Project Manager
D.M. Wills Associates Limited
150 Jameson Drive
Peterborough, ON K9J 0B9
Tel: 705-742-2297 x 275
1-888-439-4557

Bishal Dhungel, P. Eng.
MTO Senior Project Engineer
Ministry of Transportation, Eastern Region
1355 John Counter Boulevard
Kingston, ON K7K 0E5
Tel.: 613-449-0544

Notice First Published: **March 5, 2026**

Comments and information are being collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act.* Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the project team members listed above.

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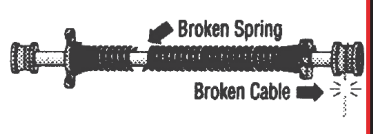
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Debra Wilson and Lynn Allen, left, and Tony Sevelka, right, receive their awards..

PHOTOS BY RILEY MURPHY

Watershed Guardian Awards honour advocates

Continued from Page A2

"There still is hope that the Caledon that I grew up in 50 years ago, the Caledon that my Dad grew up in, the Caledon that a lot of us grew up in, that it's still possible for people to come to Caledon and to be able to, for decades to come, really enjoy the jewel that we have in front of us," she said. "But it requires education, and it requires a drive to want to be able to protect that, and I don't think that that has to come at the cost of progress or at the cost of money."

Next to receive their award was another group often seen either out in the community or delegating at Caledon Council, Forks of the Credit Preservation Group (FCPG).

"Similarly to Democracy Caledon, Forks of the Credit Preservation initiated in response to a proposed calamity, an 800-acre below-water table blasting quarry," began McCammon.

"Forks of the Credit Preservation Group quickly galvanized the community, working tirelessly and constructively on issues from on-site operations, such as noise and dust, to broader impacts on watershed security, air quality, and public health, and road safety and increased maintenance costs."

He added FCPG has become a powerful facilitator of local concerns, and "they continue to be a voice seeking the establishment of progressive new aggregate policies under the Town's Official Plan, and for all of us."

Debra Wilson, who sits on the board of the Forks of the Credit Preservation Group, accepted the award along with board member Lynn Allen.

Wilson noted the hundreds of years' worth of information sitting in the room that day, and the different people who have been impacted or have advocated for their local watersheds.

"It is always wonderful to be in a room like this with like-minded people," said Wilson.

She took her recognition to instead recognize everyone else in the room, including Newall, who she recalled kept boxes of information stacked around his kitchen table, brimming with his work.

"The last of our community advocate awards is another individual who was threatened not only with just outrageous circumstances, but it was beside his property line," said McCammon, recognizing Tony Sevelka, a forensic real estate appraiser who has turned his life around, focusing on learning everything he could about below-water table blasting, and became a recognized expert with several published papers.

Many may recognize Sevelka from proposed CBM Caledon Quarry meetings or from his newsletter, where he educates the community by passing along numerous papers and write-ups.

"He has been a real champion of good thinking with respect to what this mega quarry might impact us all in the area," added McCammon.

Sevelka has spent years learning about the proposed blasting quarry's impacts and educating the community on what this would mean for them.

That night, Sevelka told The Citizen about how, according to a 2009 study undertaken by the Pembina Institute and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, the Credit River Watershed provides at least $371 million per year in ecological services to the 757,600 residents of the watershed and saves watershed taxpayers $100 million in water supply costs every year.

2026 figures show that the Credit River Watershed provides the equivalent of $900 per resident every year in combined ecological services and avoided water supply costs.

He added "an 800-acre quarry would be a permanent and irreversible ecological disaster with costly financial ramifications for the Town of Caledon, its residents and the 757,600 people who rely on the Credit River Watershed."

Accepting his award, Sevelka simply stated, "I think the real hero in our community is Ian Sinclair."

Sinclair was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Ontario Headwaters Institute.

Whether the community knows him through his delegations to Council, his time spent as a previous Caledon Councillor, or Peel Regional Councillor, to say Sinclair has a wealth of knowledge would appear to be an understatement, as McCammon said, "the problem with saying someone who needs no introduction is that it's true, but it's underwhelming. Ian Sinclair has been a pillar and a model in this community for many years."

McCammon noted that even now, Sinclair does the same as he did when he was a councillor: he asks the simple questions.

He's sat on numerous committees, commissions, agencies and councils.

Accepting his award, Sinclair dove into his own history, recounting what made him who he is today.

Sinclair grew up near the Don River, where his great-grandfather and grandfather both swam and caught fish. By the time his father was growing up, there were no fish left to catch.

For Sinclair himself, he says what was left was an "industrial sewer."

"When we came to the river, it wasn't a question of looking at clear water. It was what colour it was, swirling colors of blue and yellows, all kinds of colors from the mills."

When Hurricane Hazel struck in 1954, Sinclair noted the impact of the flooding he saw at merely eight-years-old has stuck with him, evident to this day, as in 2020, when, sitting on Caledon Council, he advocated for floods to be added to risk lists.

Sinclair highlighted numerous areas facing environmental challenges, including the Red Hill Creek Valley and the Don Valley.

"Forests were cleared, landforms graded, sound barriers and guardrails installed to make an industrial landscape out of a natural area," said Sinclair. "As a general comment, natural areas seem to be resources to be extracted."

"Natural areas such as river valleys meet all the criteria for protection but end up becoming resources to be extracted for development."

He also voiced his concerns about the Town of Erin's residential growth and the efforts of the Coalition for the West Credit River.

"My achievements in watershed matters so far," Sinclair made sure to clarify, "are working constructively with Caledon residents and their associations on water and land use issues, and then speaking up knowledgeably on environmental issues in the various councils, committees, commissions, agencies that I've served on in support of the natural environment and good land use planning. Thank you for the recognition of my service."

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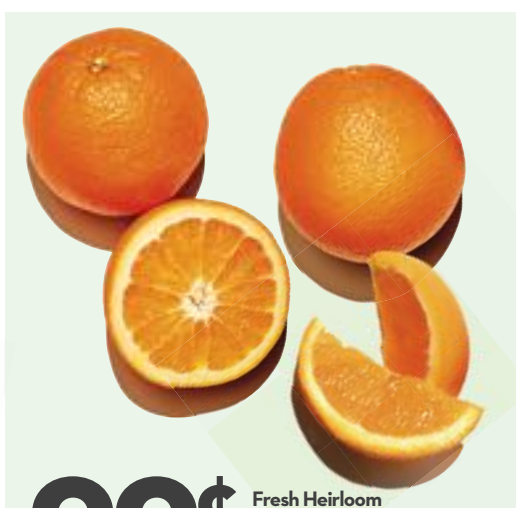


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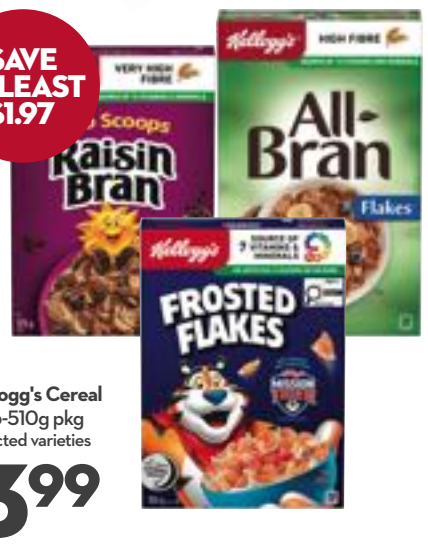
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Caledon WOMEN in BUSINESS



We are celebrating our 26th Anniversary this month!



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Caledon
WOMEN in BUSINESS

Caledon teacher to hold EmPowerHer women's retreat

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

NATALIE MASUCCI IS THE FOUNDER OF EMPOWERED LIFE COACHING FOUNDATION, BUT MANY MAY RECOGNIZE HER FROM HER 35 YEARS OF TEACHING AT ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HERE IN BOLTON.

Over her three decades of teaching in Ontario, Masucci witnessed the impact of the pandemic on mental health and overall well-being, and wanted to do something about it.

Masucci wanted to help not just her students but everyone, and so she went back to school and got a degree in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

"There was so much fear and anxiety and then when the students came back, even after COVID, then there were all kinds of other issues and even not just for the kids but the parents, the teachers, none of us were exempt from it," says Masucci.

She adds that she not only wanted to give back, but so many people were coming to her for counselling that she felt coaching was the right next step for her, moving from helping her students to also helping adults.

She founded Empowered Life Coaching Foundation three years ago, a non-profit organization that offers life coaching to individuals seeking empowerment, regardless of their financial circumstances.

"My heart has always been that if someone can't afford to help, I want them to still be able to get the best help possible," says Masucci. "That's why we're a registered charity. We offer subsidized life coaching for qualifying clients…I thought it was a win-win where I could help people who really wanted it but couldn't afford it."

Aside from her one-on-ones and programs, Masucci offers women's retreats through her foundation.

2026 will be the third year consecutive year she's offered the program.

This year's retreat, titled EmPowerHer 2026 Women's Retreat, is a space for women to invest in themselves for the day.

Masucci adds it's a day of self-love, self-care, and empowerment.

This year's retreat will feature coaching sessions, healthy meals, forest walks and a meditation circle, an equine therapy session, and stretching and strengthening under the trees.

"It's also about alignment and clarity and vision and just really tuning in," explains Masucci.

She also invites other professionals to her retreats, such as physiotherapists and chiropractors.

The retreat will be held at Sherwood Farm Retreat on June 6 and October 3, 2026, dates chosen specifically to ensure equine therapy would be possible.

She shares that equine therapy has been extremely popular at her recent retreats and remains one of the attendees' favourite parts.

"Horses have this way of seeing you and being able to see right into your soul, it's so powerful," says Masucci.

Holding the retreat on Sherwood Farms' 70 acres, Masucci says, allows for many different places to create moments for each and every person.

She aims to keep her numbers low for the retreats, ensuring she can connect and touch base with every woman throughout the day, creating a positive and safe space.

From past retreats, she says many leave at the end of the day with a brand new group of friends.

She encourages every woman to consider investing the time in themselves, and sign up for the day.

"Especially women we don't take as good care of ourselves as we should, we put everyone before ourselves, we're always last and this is just one day to get away and say, 'I'm just going to recharge my battery, I'm going to spend a day with other women,'" says Masucci. "We'll go through these beautiful things like gratitude and meditation, just to help them with their clarity and their alignment, they leave empowered."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
Working For You!

On International Women's Day, we celebrate the strength, leadership, and contributions of women across Dufferin-Caledon.

Our government continues to invest in programs that help women build strong futures.

The Women's Economic Security Program provides training opportunities in skilled trades, information technology, and entrepreneurship.

Investing in Women's Futures, which helps women develop in-demand skills and access new career pathways.

Through Better Jobs Ontario, we are also enhancing financial supports, including help with child care and living costs, to make it easier for women to enter or re-enter the workforce and pursue meaningful opportunities.

Across Dufferin-Caledon, women play a vital role in strengthening our local economy, supporting families, and building communities.

Today, we celebrate your achievements and the positive impact you continue to make close to home.



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Caledon
WOMEN in BUSINESS

Palgrave Girl Guide Member wins 100th anniversary Friendship Crest competition

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

THIS YEAR MARKS 100 YEARS OF WORLD THINKING DAY, AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION ON THE SHARED BIRTHDAY OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE GIRL GUIDES AND SCOUTS, LORD AND LADY BADEN-POWELL, ON FEBRUARY 22.

For the 100th anniversary, this year's World Thinking Day theme was friendship, to encourage curiosity, creativity, and meaningful connections within the global Guiding and Scouting community.

Part of the 100th anniversary was a Friendship Crest Competition, in which all girls and adult members of Ontario Council, Community 15, in the Peel area, with over 700 members, were allowed to submit a design for the 100th World Thinking Day celebration.

The event had over 300 attendees.

At the event, the winners were announced for the competition, and Palgrave Girl Guides' cheers erupted as 3rd year Guide of the 1st Palgrave Guides, Ella Roy, was crowned the winner.

She was chosen above dozens of entries by adult members and the World Thinking Day event committee.

It was shared that her submission was chosen for its reflection of sisterhood and friendship within guiding.

"We were told to design a crest of what we think friendship means to us," Ella, 11, told The Citizen. "I chose three girls holding hands because I think friendship means everybody gets along well, and the three girls holding hands for me meant like they all had good relationships with each other, they're all nice to each other."

Also depicted in her design are symbols on the girls' backs, one for Girl Guides, one for Girl Guides Ontario, and one maple leaf representing Canada.

"I was nervous because I didn't know who was going to win, but then they announced that I won, I was really, really excited," Ella says. "My whole girl guide group was all screaming."

Ella's mother, Dawn Roy, says they were so happy to hear she had won.

"We're really proud of her," she says.

Dawn explains that Ella often draws and colours in her free time and really enjoys it.

All Guide members in Community 15 will receive Ella's version of the crest, and she will receive her own crest mounted on a plaque always to remember the special moment.



Ella (far right) and other recognized winners at the event Manreet (left), and Kayleigh (middle).
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The plaque awarded to Ella featuring her crest.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

International Women's Day



Mayor Annette Groves

On behalf of Caledon Council, I would like to recognize women on International Women's Day for what they do to make our communities strong.

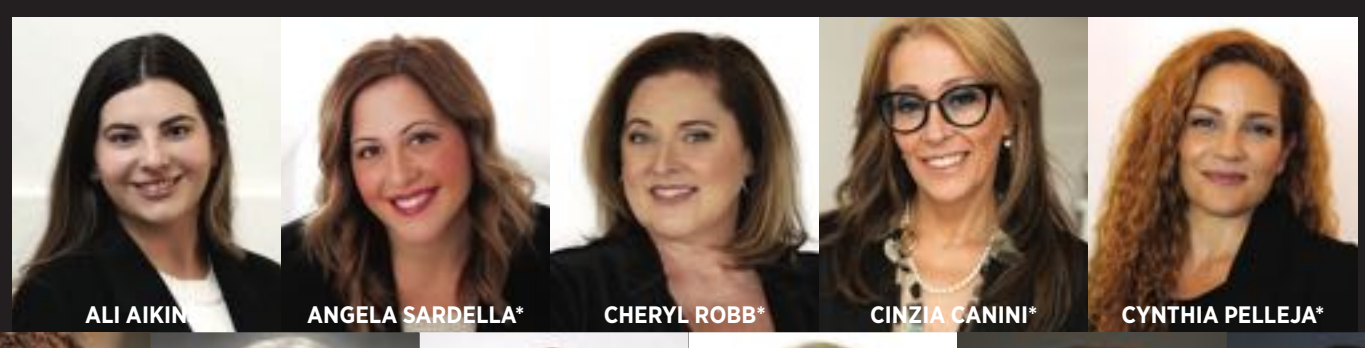
Women are leaders, mothers, sisters, daughters, business owners, workers, caregivers, teachers and scholars. This global day is to recognize and celebrate women's and girls' social, economic, cultural and political achievements.

It's also a time to raise awareness of the progress made and the work remaining to be done.

#IWD2026

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THE HONOURABLE RUBY SAHOTA IS THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMBATTING CRIME. Elected to Parliament in 2015 in the riding of Brampton North, Secretary of State Sahota was re-elected in 2019, 2021 and 2025 and now represents the newly redistributed riding of Brampton North—Caledon.

Secretary of State Sahota is a dedicated public servant and experienced legislator. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Peace Studies from McMaster University and a Juris Doctor from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. Prior to entering politics, she practiced commercial litigation and international trade law.

Over her parliamentary career, she has held several prominent leadership roles, including Chief Government Whip (2024) and Minister of Democratic Institutions & Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (2024-2025). In May of 2025, she was appointed Secretary of State for Combatting Crime.

Throughout her tenure, Secretary of State Sahota has been a strong advocate for public safety, accessible transit, cost-of-living relief, affordable childcare, and human rights. She has been an active member of key parliamentary committees and chaired the Federal Liberal Ontario Caucus.

Secretary of State Sahota lives in Brampton with her husband and their son.

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Specializing in residential properties, Kim serves all of Caledon and the GTA and, as a longtime resident, knows the ins and outs.
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When selling a home, she uses expert marketing and professional staging to showcase a property.
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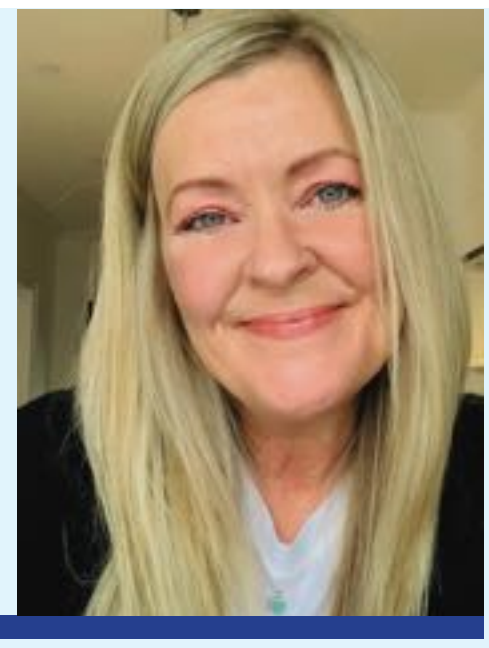


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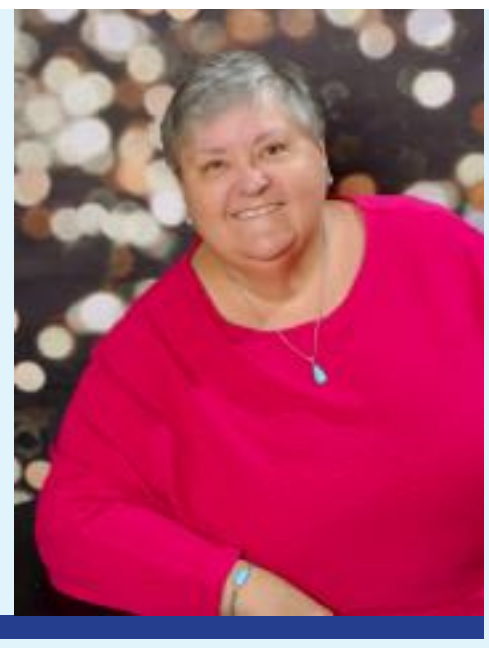
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CAROL STRUTHERS, STRUTHERS LAW

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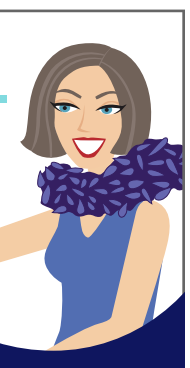
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Caledon
WOMEN in BUSINESS

FTP works to advance gender equality through International Women's Day



BY SAM ODROWSKI

A GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF THE CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN IS BEING MARKED LOCALLY TODAY TO RECOGNIZE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD).

Family Transition Place (FTP) is hosting its annual IWD event at Hockley Valley Resort (793522 3rd Line EHS, Mono) on March 5. FTP is inviting the community to enjoy a morning of connection, celebration and meaningful impact. The event features a buffet breakfast, signature mocktail, silent auction, and prizes. All funds raised from the breakfast will support FTP's mission to build a safer, healthier community.

While IWD is a celebration, it's also a time to advocate for accelerating gender equality by breaking down barriers, eliminating violence, and ensuring equal rights.

"International Women's Day (IWD) is always meaningful for us at Family Transition Place. It's a time to reflect on the services we provide to women, children, and families and on the collective responsibility we all share in creating a community where safety, hope, and equality are possible," said Lynette Pole-Langdon, FTP's executive director.

"This year's IWD campaign is entitled 'Give to Gain' and focuses on encouraging a mindset of generosity and collaboration which contributes to the advancement of women and girls. Living and working in our ever-growing rural community, we see firsthand how deeply connected we are and how progress happens when we show up for one another."

She added, "Every one of us can make a difference by giving of our time, expertise, advocacy or resources-whether it's volunteering your time and expertise, supporting local fundraisers, or providing donations if you are able, those are the actions that will help us build a more connected, supportive community where we can all thrive."

IWD was started in 1911, when millions of people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland attended rallies to show their support for women's rights. At the time, women couldn't vote, hold public office or live a life free of discrimination based on their gender.

While progress has been made, there is still more work to do, and IWD provides a great opportunity for the community to come together to further advocacy and reflect on milestones.

The breakfast's presenting sponsors are RBC Royal Bank, Roud Wealth Management RBC Dominion Securities, and GoYoga Orangeville.

"FTP is pleased to partner with these generous sponsors, whose support plays a vital role in making this annual celebration possible and in strengthening FTP's ability to deliver essential programs and services for women and their families across the community," reads a press release from FTP.

For more information, contact Kelly Lee at Family Transition Place (519-942-4122, ext. 243 | kelly@familytransitionplace.ca or visit www.familytransitionplace.ca.

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Today, we celebrate our progress and the women guiding us toward an even better tomorrow.

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S Day!



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Caledon WOMEN in BUSINESS

Canadian entrepreneurship growing among women, with federal strategy helping to close the gap

BY SAM ODROWSKI

CANADIAN WOMEN HAVE TAKEN THE BUSINESS WORLD BY STORM OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS, MORE THAN DOUBLING THE NUMBER OF FEMALE-OWNED BUSINESSES.

While women owned less than 10 per cent of Canadian businesses in the mid-1970s, they now own roughly 20 per cent of all private-sector businesses in Canada today.

However, greater advocacy is needed to achieve true gender parity in the business world. Male ownership accounts for the remaining, approximately 80 per cent, of businesses, and women face systemic challenges when pursuing entrepreneurship.

To help close the gap, the Government of Canada launched the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES) in 2018, a nearly $7 billion initiative that offers a variety of supportive programs.

"Studies show that advancing gender equality and women's participation in the economy can add billions in GDP. Since creating Canada's first-ever Women Entrepreneurship Strategy, our government has helped hundreds of thousands of women start new businesses, grow their existing businesses and expand into global markets. Investing in women entrepreneurs isn't just the right thing to do; it's an economic imperative and a smart strategy for a thriving future," said Rechie Valdez, Minister of Small Business.

One challenge that women face when starting a business is access to financing. To address this, the WES Inclusive Women Venture Capital Initiative is helping to create a more equitable venture capital environment. The initiative funds projects that "strengthen and build a more inclusive venture capital environment for Canadian women," according to the Government of Canada.

Another key support to address funding challenges is the WES's Women Entrepreneurship Loan Fund, which provides loans of up to $50,000 to female entrepreneurs and business owners.

The WES Ecosystem Fund helps strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem's capacity and provides the resources women entrepreneurs need to launch or grow a business.

The WES's Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub provides a one-stop source of knowledge, data and best practices for female entrepreneurs. The hub is a collaboration between 10 regional hubs, more than 250 organizations and thousands of women entrepreneurs.

To date, over 400,000 women have been supported through the WES strategy.

"Women-owned businesses are not only driving economic growth through job creation but also bringing in higher revenues year over year, generating over $90 billion in sales revenue across Canada, and accounting for more than 865,000 jobs," said Wendy Cukier, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Strategy at Toronto Metropolitan University.

"There are also multiplier effects of SMEs, including those owned by women, across sectors and communities. And women are more likely to contribute to sustainable development goals. There is a surge in women-founded companies across sectors from technology and finance to health care and consumer goods, attracting significant investment and market attention. As we move into challenging times, we need to ensure women entrepreneurs are central to strategies for resilience and self-sufficiency."



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This understanding was key to my decision to pursue a degree in Integrated Business and Humanities at McMaster University. The program combined my two passions, and taught me that capitalism contributes to social well-being through innovation, employment and wealth. So businesses exist to serve people, not the other way around. People first, in other words, and this begins with financial literacy for everyone.

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I look forward to the opportunity to connect with you - to understand your life's plans, and to be part of your journey ahead.



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Caledon
WOMEN in BUSINESS

Practical ways to support women in everyday life

(NC) ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES DON'T AFFECT everyone equally, and women often feel the biggest impact. While these realities are rooted in long-standing systems, progress happens when people take action—big or small. Here are some ways you can help create change:

SUPPORT WOMEN'S HEALTH.

Women's health isn't just about what we can see. It also includes everyday realities that often go unnoticed. For instance, did you know that, in Canada, about one in six people who menstruate struggle to afford period products? It's a phenomenon called period poverty, and it's a lived reality for many women, who have to choose between paying for period products or other necessities like rent or groceries.

CREATE A SUPPORTIVE WORKPLACE FOR WOMEN.

Women bring diverse perspectives, skills and experiences to the workplace, but they can face unique challenges, from systemic bias to gaps in equity and inclusion. Creating a safe, respectful and shame-free environment helps women feel valued, confident and empowered to contribute their best. By fostering policies, practices and a culture that actively supports women, organizations can unlock the full potential of their workforce while building a more equitable and thriving workplace for everyone

How can you play your part? For many people, the challenge isn't a lack of good intentions, it's uncertainty about where to start. Topics that are still surrounded by stigma, like periods, can feel unfamiliar simply because we haven't been encouraged to talk about them openly. Building comfort and confidence through education is a meaningful first step. Organizations like The Period Purse offer free workshops and practical resources that help reduce period stigma and support the creation of shame-free spaces.

The issues affecting women's health are complex and deeply connected to broader social and economic systems, and they won't be solved overnight. But small, intentional actions can add up to real change over time. Learn more about how to support women's health at theperiodpurse.com.

www.newscanada.com









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Sandra is incredibly proud of the home childcare providers within her agency. These women are true leaders in the community—building rewarding careers from home while providing exceptional care for children. Their work not only creates meaningful income opportunities for themselves, but also gives working parents peace of mind knowing their children are nurtured in a safe, enriching environment.

If you're interested in becoming a licensed home childcare provider or are a parent looking for quality care for your little one, connect with Sandra—she would be happy to support you.

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Susan Vint + Associates combines deep roots in Bolton with a fresh, practical approach to helping businesses grow and succeed.

For small businesses, she is experienced in personal and corporate taxes, making her well-positioned to assist small business owners with tax planning.

When it comes to medium-sized businesses, Susan looks forward to helping owners by providing monthly and quarterly financial statement preparation that provides important business decisions where profitability is concerned.

But it's not just businesses, Susan provides personal financial planning services for her personal tax client base to help guide those through.

She looks forward to meeting more of the business owners of today, and tomorrow, in the community.



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New book from Head of School challenges traditional concepts of classroom education

THE ROLE OF A TEACHER USED TO BE TO IMPART INFORMATION.

BY BROCK WEIR

This role has significantly shifted in recent years, says Dr. Cinde Lock, and schools need to recognize this to stay relevant in a window as short as five years.

"Look at the world we live in," she says. "With AI, everybody is going to have their own private tutor soon – they already kind of do – and it can push them along, help them learn, and give them oodles of extra questions, things to think about and context. If we want to be relevant in five years' time, we'd better rethink what school is, what we can amplify, and what we can help bring alive that AI can never do – and that is human connection."

Dr. Lock, an educator of more than 30 years and now Head of School at Newmarket's Pickering College, explores this topic in-depth in her new book Connections, Academics, and Purpose: Designing the Future of School.

Co-authored with her daughter, Anneke Lee, the book explores "a bold and timely reimagining of education – one where learning begins not with curriculum expectations, but with authentic connections, real-world problems, and meaningful community partnerships."

First published in January and formally launched at Pickering College last week, nearly 900 books had been sold at press time this week and it has already sparked a conversation.

Human connections, says Dr. Lock, can include fostering an environment where students feel involved, valued and heard, and where they can better understand and connect with the world around them.

It is essential to help students forge a meaningful link between some of the challenges facing our world and be a part of the change they want to see in the world. Connecting them with changemakers can help students see the issues through a new lens and see that they can make a valuable contribution.

"From a very young age, they can say, 'I want to be a part of that journey. It's informed citizenship and engaged citizenship. It's also building empathy. It helps them feel like their learning is purposeful and meaningful," Dr. Lock explains. "It's not for the purpose of just being graded. If you go into a traditional school, every day you're just being assessed. It's about assessment and not learning."

"We're doing that in spades at Pickering College and this is really a love story to Pickering in so many ways, but it's so much broader than that because it's about a vision for what school should be and it's a methodology for teachers on how to actually put it in place."

Other types of schools and other educational institutions are so ingrained with existing systems and potentially outdated ideas of what universities are looking for in accepting first-year students out of the high school environment, Dr. Lock says.

She cites a recent discussion with a teacher just out of school as a prime example of this way of thinking. When Dr. Lock asked how the teacher could make her math lesson more interesting, the teacher linked the equation of a curve with art. But that didn't necessarily underscore the purpose of why students need to make that calculation in the first place.

"What if the student went away and said, 'there's something really cool in that, and I thought it was really interesting,' and, on their own time and in their own way, went and extended the project far beyond what you'd ever originally assigned?" she says, relating a question she posed to the educator. "What if the student comes back four weeks later and says, 'Look what I did! I'm so excited about this.' Would you change the grade in the original assignment?' The teacher said no, and I asked why? What is it that's so ingrained in your thinking about student learning that your timing and structure have to be so tight that you don't want to encourage, nor do you want to accept a student that's gone far beyond, and you don't want to credit it because somehow that's an advantage that student had that no other student did?"

The newly minted teacher stuck to their guns and said going down that route would result in "everybody getting 100 per cent," says Dr. Lock.

"Why is that bad? Isn't that learning? Don't you want students to be passionate about their learning? Unfortunately, this is a narrow view of school – it's about the assessment more than the learning, more than it is about the passion or the interest in learning. If we want to have anything other than disengaged kids, we've got to make changes."

As Connections, Academics, and Purpose: Designing the Future of School continues to reach educators and parents alike, Dr. Lock says she wants the volume to "create a movement." She senses an opportunity to foster change, she says, just as Pickering College instills in its own students.

"I want to take advantage of the opportunity I have because the truth is the public school system is a bigger, more difficult machine to change," she says. "They don't have the ability to be as playful and as innovative as an independent school like Pickering College. If we can do that hard work here and see what works, and actually figure out what school could be, we can show how it can be scaled up and share it.

"The very core thing we want kids to do is feel that they can actually make a difference in the world, live their lives with a sense of meaning and purpose."

For more information on Connections, Academics, and Purpose: Designing the Future of School, including how to order the book, see supporting materials, and view online workshops, visit www.cindelock.com.



IN Celebration OF

International Women's Day



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I'm truly a proven professional in the real estate industry and regarded highly as a Real Estate Broker within Caledon and the surrounding area. I'm not one to shy away from a challenge and I bring a special energy, passion and dedication to almost everything I do in life. With close to 36 years' of experience and expertise in real estate, my true strengths rest in my ability to form lasting client relationships & I practice the fine art of negotiation in the ever-changing real estate world.

Mindful of my good fortune, I'm committed to strong community involvement and I support numerous charities, both locally and nationally. Family, friends and my clients are at the heart of who I am.

As a proven professional, I value being actively engaged in to my work, community & the industry at large.



SHIRLEY HOPPLER

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As a proud member of the Toronto Real Estate Board for over 20 years, I have witnessed numerous changes in the industry. However, one thing that has never changed is the unwavering commitment to Honesty, Integrity, and Professionalism that I bring to each and every one of my clients. Your needs are always my #1 priority, and I am dedicated to ensuring that your real estate experience is flawless. My goal is to make your transaction as smooth, successful, and stress-free as possible. I deeply appreciate your continued business and support, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to assist you with all your real estate needs.

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MAUREEN TENAGLIA

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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Proud to live, work, and raise my family in this vibrant community, I help families find their perfect home. Whether buying, selling, or investing, I provide a seamless, stress-free experience with expert market knowledge, strong negotiation skills, and a personalized approach, guiding families every step of the way.

My business is built on trust, relationships, and referrals from clients who know I prioritize their needs. From first-time buyers to seasoned investors, I help families build wealth through real estate.

Giving back is just as important to me. I support Samaritan's Purse, local charities, and organize events with the BIA to bring Bolton together. I look forward to helping you with your real estate needs.



CHRISTINA CORBO

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In today's fast-paced world, Christina Corbo is a trusted real estate professional serving New Tecumseth and surrounding areas. As a wife and mother of two, she understands that a home is more than a house — it's where memories are made and futures are built.

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Caledon Community Services holds record-breaking Coldest Night event

Continued from FRONT



Ruby Sahota, MP for Brampton North—Caledon recognizesd the event with CCS board members. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

"We are members of Holy Family Church in Bolton, and part of our service to the community is this," says Ron Frank, Team Captain of Holy Family Saints. "There are six of us on the team.

If the six of us can continue that every year, I think that's admirable."

Lydia Rogers, one of the six on Holy Family Saints, adds that at Holy Family Church, they consistently support CCS in numerous ways, collecting a lot of food at their church.

"Our parishioners are awesome," she adds.

Before walkers set off for the races, Aguiar and other speakers commenced the event with a few words.

Hitting their goal, Aguiar said, "this means hungry people in our community have a place to go to."

"This means moms who are struggling have a place to go to for some safe space and support. This means children are not going to be going to school looking at the next lunch-box wondering why I don't have an apple, an orange, a granola bar. This means someone in your cubicle next to you at work has one less worry on their mind because they know they've got a place to go to twice a month to get topped up on important, vital foods," she added.

Acting Mayor Tony Rosa acknowledged the growing need in Caledon.

"More neighbours than ever are struggling and more are turning to Caledon Community Services for support, and it's this type of activity that's happening here today that really directly supports those individuals in our community," he said. "Hunger, homelessness and poverty are real issues. I just retired after 33 years of service as a high school teacher, and my last 15 years I spent as a guidance counsellor in student services. I can tell you that this is a real issue."

He added that the event was about standing in solidarity with those who face hardship every day.

"Every step taken tonight represents a commitment. No one should be left behind. No one.

Everyone deserves to have the necessities of life," said Rosa. "Caledon's strength is rooted in neighbours helping neighbours."

Bill Parnaby, with the Bill Parnaby Team, has been a lead sponsor of CCS's CNOY for years.

"If you look at the person beside you," he said, addressing the room. "Everybody has challenges. So, why I'm so grateful is that you have continued by showing up to reinforce my own belief in the power and the will of people to do good."

"This is a testament to how much we support each other, whether we do it every day or every week or every month, and I just want to say I'm incredibly grateful to be here in front of you guys and participating in such an event," said Parnaby.

Fundraising for CNOY is far from over; donations and pledges to the CCS's CNOY page can be made until the end of March.

"Let's go and beat last year's record!" says Aguiar.

Vera M. Davis Centre among first homes selected for new Improving Dementia Care Program

The Ontario government is strengthening dementia care in long-term care homes by announcing the first 17 homes participating in the new Improving Dementia Care Program (IDCP), including the Vera M. Davis Centre in Bolton.

The Province is investing $9 million over three years to support this initiative, which will help improve the quality of life for residents living with dementia while strengthening Ontario's long-term care system.

"Our government is proud to support innovative approaches to dementia care, including right here in Dufferin-Caledon," said Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon. "By selecting the Vera M. Davis Centre, our government is ensuring residents and families have access to more personalized, compassionate care."

Through the IDCP, long-term care homes will implement emotion-based models of care and provide additional staff training to better support residents living with dementia. The program focuses on building strong relationships between staff, residents and families while creating environments that reflect residents' individual needs and experiences.

The Vera M. Davis Centre will expand on its innovative Butterfly Model, which features small, home-like neighbourhoods, vibrant spaces, and the removal of institutional features to create a more comfortable and supportive living environment.

"On behalf of Peel Region, I want to thank the Ontario government for this investment in seniors and dementia care," said Nando Iannicca, Peel Regional Chair and CEO. "This IDCP funding will allow us to expand the proven benefits of emotion-based care and further enhance the quality of life for residents living with dementia. With the Vera M. Davis Centre becoming the first long-term care centre in Peel Region to implement this model across the entire home, Peel Region continues to strengthen its leadership in emotion-based care."

In addition to launching the IDCP, Ontario is expanding access to behavioural specialized units (BSUs), investing $3.35 million in 2025-26 and $9.82 million annually starting in 2026-27 to add up to 153 BSU beds in five long-term care homes across the province. These units provide person-centred care, delivered by specialized staff who tailor therapies to each resident's physical, emotional, and cultural needs, helping seniors receive the care they need in a long-term care home rather than a hospital, ensuring that hospital beds are available to those who need them most.

Advancing dementia care is part of Ontario's broader plan to protect and improve long-term care, which is built on four key pillars: increasing staffing and care; strengthening quality and enforcement; building modern, safe and comfortable homes; and connecting seniors with faster, more convenient access to the services they need.





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Stan Douglas (b. 1960), *Masonic Lodge, Barkerville* (detail), 2006, laserchrome print, 127 x 145 cm, courtesy of the artist, Victoria Miro, and David Zwirner © Stan Douglas

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