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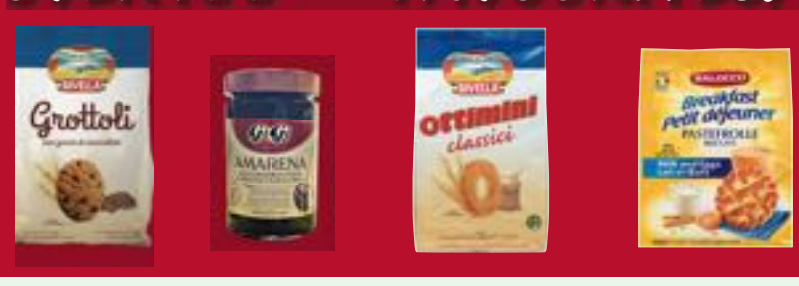


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Celebrating Irish Heritage



Mayor Annette Groves and members of Council were joined by Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones and members of the public at Tuesday's flag raising to mark Irish Heritage Month. For more, see Page A3. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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Council refers Caledon Village Bypass Feasibility motion back to staff

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

At Council's March 10 meeting, Councillors Christina Early and Lynn Kiernan brought forward a motion to initiate a Caledon Village Bypass feasibility study.

The motion was referred back to staff.

The motion stated that a bypass has been identified by residents and businesses as the primary long-term solution to redirect through-traffic and heavy goods movement away from the village core, which is stated to receive up to 40,000 vehicles per day.

Early said at the meeting this bypass has been something discussed for many years.

"I think we need to have a starting point, and we need to get serious about it so that we can look at how we can protect the future and have our roads safer."

Not only would a study be conducted, but also a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation and the MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, Sylvia Jones, requesting the MTO's formal participation and financial partnership in this study, given the provincial jurisdiction of Highway 10, and that staff consult with the Region of Peel and relevant stakeholders to ensure the study integrates with regional goods movement and safety strategies.

Caledon Village resident Kate Hepworth delegated on the motion, stating "it's been a long time coming."

Continued on Page A15

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Frankie Flowers takes on CPL's Seedy Saturday

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Caledon East Community Complex was bustling and busy on Saturday as hundreds of members of the Caledon community showed up to take part in Caledon Public Library's (CPL) third annual Seedy Saturday.

In a partnership with Albion Hills Community Farm and Palgrave United Community Kitchen, CPL holds Seedy Saturday to celebrate gardening and sustainability.

Continued on Page A7



SAY SEEDS! - Frankie Flowers and attendees at Seedy Saturday. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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"We Want OSAP ASAP"

Humberview Secondary School students walk out to protest OSAP slash

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Following Premier Doug Ford's recent announcement regarding cuts to grant amounts under the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), high school students across Caledon walked out on March 11 to protest and advocate for their education.

Humberview Secondary School students took it one step further, leaving school and marching directly into Downtown Bolton's core to raise awareness.

Despite the heavy rainfall, these high school students walked and biked downtown, chanting "We want OSAP ASAP."

The province, alongside an announcement of billions of dollars in funding for Ontario's colleges and universities, and the end of a years-long tuition freeze, announced changes to the OSAP grant structure.

The allocation of OSAP funding for eligible students in the new school year will be reduced to a maximum of 25 per cent for grants, with funding for loans increased to a minimum of 75 per cent.

Currently, students can receive a maximum of 85 per cent in grants, which do not have to be repaid, and a minimum of 15 per cent in loans that need to be repaid.

Now, students who are soon to set out into post-secondary education are forced to reconsider their options without OSAP support.

Aleda, a Grade 11 student, and with these cuts to OSAP, they fear they won't be able to continue on to post-secondary.

"I have a single mother, and I know if I don't get this funding, this help that I need, I'm not going to be able to get higher education," says Aleda.

"I'm worried that without it I can't get to the future."

For Grade 12 student Anna, even though she does not require OSAP, she joined the walkout in support of her friends.

"For me, it really hurts that this will be affecting their ability to attend post-secondary institutions and struggle to make ends meet," she says.

Cars honked in support and cheered as the students stood in the pouring rain, holding signs with phrases such as "Hands off OSAP" and "Education should not be a debt sentence."

The changes to OSAP's grant structure will take effect for the 2026/2027 academic year, specifically for programs starting on or after August 1, 2026.



Humberview students huddle under Downtown Bolton's gazebo following their rainy march. (Inset) Aleda holds up a sign saying "Educate the future, fund OSAP." **PHOTOS BY RILEY MURPHY**

Ontario names supervisors at Peel District and York Catholic School Boards

The Minister of Education has appointed supervisors at the Peel District School Board (PDSB) and York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) in response to serious concerns about infighting and long-term financial unsustainability that risk disrupting learning and undermining student outcomes.

As part of its plan to protect Ontario and ensure students are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow, these actions will help the province restore sound financial management at these boards and ensure that every dollar invested is preparing students with practical skills for good-paying, stable careers.

"After careful review, it is clear that both Peel and York Catholic are facing serious challenges that they cannot resolve on their own," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Education. "I have appointed supervisors to restore sound management, strengthen oversight and ensure every decision is focused on protecting student learning and success."

In January, the Minister placed the PDSB under provincial supervision on a provisional basis to prevent a midyear staffing change that could have resulted in uncertainty for parents, students and educators. At the same time, he advised the YCDSB that the board's significant governance issues were affecting matters of public interest and that he was considering placing the board under supervision.

Heather Watt has been appointed as supervisor at the PDSB. Watt is a management consultant with over 20 years of career experience in public and private sector leadership. She has worked in crisis consulting and senior strategy roles across multiple sectors, including government, life sciences, health insurance, pharmacy, consumer products, industrials and private equity.

Carrie Kormos has been appointed as supervisor at the YCDSB. She is a seasoned advisor with over 30 years of experience supporting executive teams and boards in Canada's government, gaming, hospitality and tourism sectors. Kormos has previously advised Ministers and Premiers, and has also served as Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at one of Canada's largest hospitality companies. Kormos serves as a Director for Invest Ontario and the Canadian Gaming Association.

Watt and Kormos will provide the ministry with regular updates on their work to stabilize the boards' financial situation, introduce efficiency measures and strengthen overall operational effectiveness.



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Councillor Kiernan poses for a photo with the day's attendees.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Town of Caledon marks Irish Heritage Month

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

March in Caledon is recognized as Irish Heritage Month, and Caledon Council kicked off the month-long celebration with a flag-raising on Tuesday.

Just a week before St Patrick's Day, a mighty crowd gathered outside of Caledon Town Hall to raise the Irish Flag.

"The Town of Caledon is proud of its Irish heritage," said Mayor Annette Groves. "These families endured hardships, and survived under challenging conditions and greatly contributed to the story of Caledon, but not just Caledon, they greatly contributed to our country and our province."

"Their perseverance in the face of adversity helped to shape our Town for what it is today."

Many villages in Caledon still bear Irish names and traditions, she continued, and "today we join together to honour this heritage."

Councillor Lynn Kiernan plays a big part in the celebration in Caledon, but it began with MP Maloney.

In 2021, MP James Maloney introduced a motion in the House of Commons that led to the official designation of March as Irish Heritage Month in Canada.

"Then I brought it forward to the members of this Council that Caledon should declare March as Irish heritage month," said Kiernan.

"I'm very proud today as we raise the flag of Irish heritage, and we will do that every March going forward," she added.

Kiernan spoke to the history of Irish heritage in Caledon.

"Our communities were settled by the Irish, who were fleeing Ireland due to hunger and oppression and seeking a better life. They came here and created communities," she said

Community names many may recognize, such as Tullamore.

MPP for Dufferin-Caledon Sylvia Jones attended the event and read aloud an Irish blessing, laughing that she has a lot of fun on this day as she gets to spend the time picking one.

"There's many street signs, many small hamlets across Caledon and in Dufferin that have Irish history," added Jones.

Irish immigrants began settling in the hills of North West Albion Township, also known as Irish Town, around 1825, said Groves.

Irish Town referred to the general areas around Palgrave, the Hamlet of Cedar Mills, Sleswick, and Sligo.

"Despite the challenging terrain of these areas, the Irish settlers still managed to create a sense of permanent community out of isolated farm steads and became an important influence in Caledon's farming history and identity," said Groves.

"Today, many descendants of the original Irish Settlers still live in the area, farm the land, and preserve and restore the heritage on the town's history."



PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVE YOUR SAY

Notice of Application and Public Meeting Town-Initiated Zoning By-law Amendment

FILE NUMBER: RZ 2026-0004

This is to inform you that a Statutory Public Meeting will be held to provide those interested an opportunity to make representation with respect to the proposed Town-Initiated Zoning By-law Amendment. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

Please be advised that the Town of Caledon is offering a Hybrid Committee and Council Meeting model with options for you to engage with Council, including in-person or virtual opportunities.

Meeting Date:	**April 7, 2026**
Public Meeting Start Time:	**7:00 p.m.**
Location:	**Council Chambers, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East**

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

1. Attend In-Person: Register to delegate in-person and speak to an item listed on the agenda or sit in the gallery to watch the meeting.
2. Submit Written Comments: Submit written comments regarding the proposed application by completing the Participation Request Form, available at **http://www.caledon.ca/speak-at-council**
3. Virtually: Members of the public are welcome to participate via phone or WebEx Meeting upon request. For more information, please visit **http://www.caledon.ca/notice** or contact the Planning Department. Please note that there are deadlines to request participation at the Public Meeting.

YOU CAN ALSO PROVIDE INPUT BY:

- Submitting written correspondence to agenda@caledon.ca and planning@caledon.ca for consideration during the Public Meeting. Please note that written comments will form part of the public record.
- Contacting Planning staff or the Lead Planner during office hours by phone or email (See contact information below).
- Booking an appointment to visit Town Hall to speak with Planning staff. Visit **caledon.ca/development** for more information.

LOCATION:
The proposed Zoning By-law Amendment applies to the lands identified below.



PROPOSED CHANGES:

The purpose of this Town-Initiated Zoning By-law Amendment is to rezone some of the lands designated *New Urban Area 2051* in the Future Caledon Official Plan, to *Future Development (FD)* Zone.

The Future Development (FD) Zone will permit:

- legally existing uses;
- uses permitted in the *Agricultural (A1) Zone*;
- Temporary Sales Structure on lands subject to a draft approved plan of subdivision or condominium; and
- Public uses and infrastructure.

A copy of the draft by-law is available on the Town's website.

LEAD PLANNER:
Tanjot Bal
Senior Planner, Development & Design
Planning and Development Department
905-584-2272 ext. 4418
Tanjot.bal@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

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

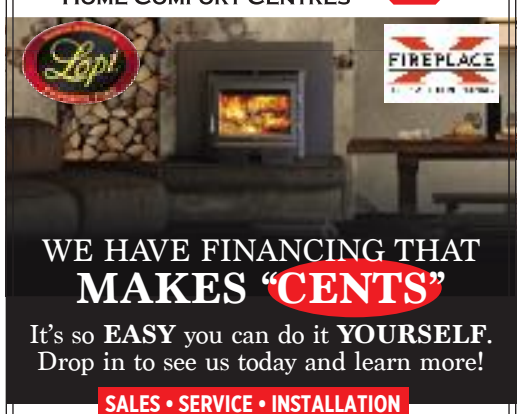
ACCESSIBILITY:

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

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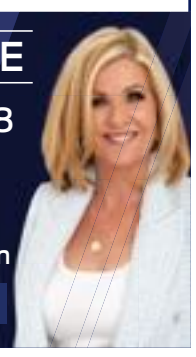
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Caledon OPP provides update following Caledon-deployed CCTV Cameras

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

At the General Committee meeting on March 3, Caledon OPP gave their quarterly presentation to Council, including an update on the recently installed Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras.

In the spring of 2025, Caledon OPP were recipients of a grant of just over $254,000 to assist in the implementation of CCTV cameras across Caledon as a part of the Ontario Guns, Gangs and Violence Reduction Strategy.

With the Town of Caledon's support and additional funding, 78 CCTV cameras were installed across 42 locations by the end of November 2025.

At the Committee meeting, it was shared the cameras have already assisted in ongoing investigations.

Inspector Natalie Majer, Caledon Detachment Commander with the OPP, presented to Council that following a residential arson investigation on Mount Wolfe Road and Old Church Road, investigators used the CCTV footage provided by the Town of Caledon to establish timelines, vehicle movements, and identify the accused, which supported a February 13 search warrant and the arrest of two adults.

"We're very appreciative of that resource tool and continue to use them," added Majer.

As part of their recently launched Community Business Engagement (CBE) Initiative, Caledon OPP is continuing to use CCTV cameras and CAMSafe expansion to enhance the prevention and early detection of any crime in the community.

The CAMSafe program invites residents and businesses to voluntarily register their private security cameras at www.camsafe.ca, creating a network that allows officers to request footage during investigations without accessing live feeds.

"The technology-driven policing has enabled reverse vehicle tracking, formulation of warrant grounds, and has led to investigative efficiencies, arrests, and evidentiary seizures in serious criminal investigations," explained Operations Sergeant with the Caledon Detachment Vijay Rai at the committee meeting.

He says these cameras continue to be used in various extortion-related calls.

Later, in response to Council questions, Rai highlighted that they could use more CCTV cameras, explaining that there are still blind spots.

It also depends on infrastructure, as these cameras rely on electricity, without a reliable infrastructure, they cannot be installed in those areas.

He added they have been receiving many questions about the next round of grants so that they can install more cameras.

It was shared at the meeting that the grants for CCTV have recently been combined into the Community Safety and Policing (CSP) Grant.

"It definitely helped in investigations," said Rai. "But, we can definitely add more CCTV cameras."

Majer also highlighted the CAMSafe initiative.

"It's not just the reliance of these cameras that the Town has installed," said Majer, discussing how Ring doorbell footage has become a significant resource for the FBI and other agencies in the United States, as the footage is right at the porch of a homeowner.

"If we can add more technology to assist in our investigations, we're going to seek that."

DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

Members of the Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have laid numerous charges against three individuals following a recent warrant execution.

"In February 2026, the Caledon CSCU entered into a drug trafficking investigation," say Police. "With the assistance of the Caledon Major Crime Unit (MCU), OPP Central Region Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau (OCEB), and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), a search warrant was executed upon a residence in the City of Brampton.

"Officers seized approximately 480 grams of Opium, two firearms, firearm ammunition, and a replica handgun firearm."

As a result of the investigation, three individuals were arrested and charged.

Kushdeep Kaur, 25, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Careless storage of a firearm, weapon, prohibited device, or ammunition - two counts

Balpreet Kaur, 26, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking

Arun Kumar, 20, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking.

The accused parties are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton at a later date to answer to their charge(s).

The charges have not been proven.

If you suspect illegal activity in your neighbourhood, you can report it to Caledon OPP at 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.

SLEEPING DRIVER CHARGED

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have recently charged a motorist with operation while impaired after registering a blood alcohol concentration over twice the legal limit.

"On March 3, 2026, at approximately 6:30 a.m., Caledon OPP officers were on general patrol in the area of Mayfield Road and Airport Road, in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "Officers observed an individual asleep behind the wheel of an idling vehicle at a nearby business. Investigating officers approached the vehicle and formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol."

Following the investigation, a 30-year-old from Brampton was charged with:

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

The charges have not been proven.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date to answer to their charges. The involved vehicle was also impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver's licence was suspended for a period of 90 days.

The OPP remains committed to taking alcohol/drug impaired drivers off our roads through enforcement and public education. 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

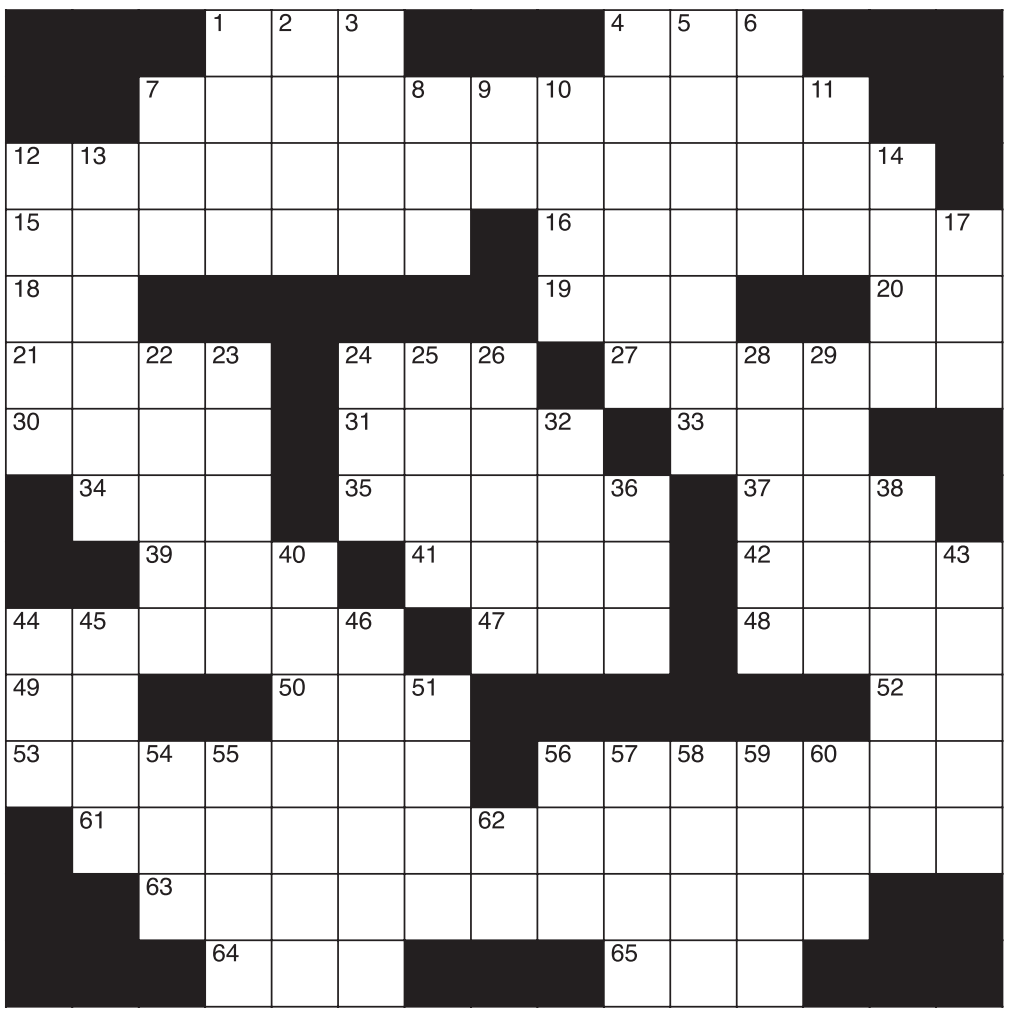


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The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No.

Solution in the classifieds.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Blockchain-based entity
4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
7. Painted with glue
12. Legendary crooner
15. Structure made with strips of wood
16. Tropical fruits
18. Commercial
19. Comedienne Gasteyer
20. The Ocean State
21. Ancient Scot
24. Basics
27. Stated propositions
30. Scottish island group
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Large tree
34. Engine additive
35. Conspiracy
37. Drunkard
39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
41. Ancient Syrian city
42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
44. Carry (slang)
47. Sweet potato
48. European river
49. The Golden State
50. Windy City ballplayer
52. New Testament
53. Possess spiritually
56. A treeless grassy plain
61. Popular historical novel
63. In a law-abiding way
64. A place to sleep
65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

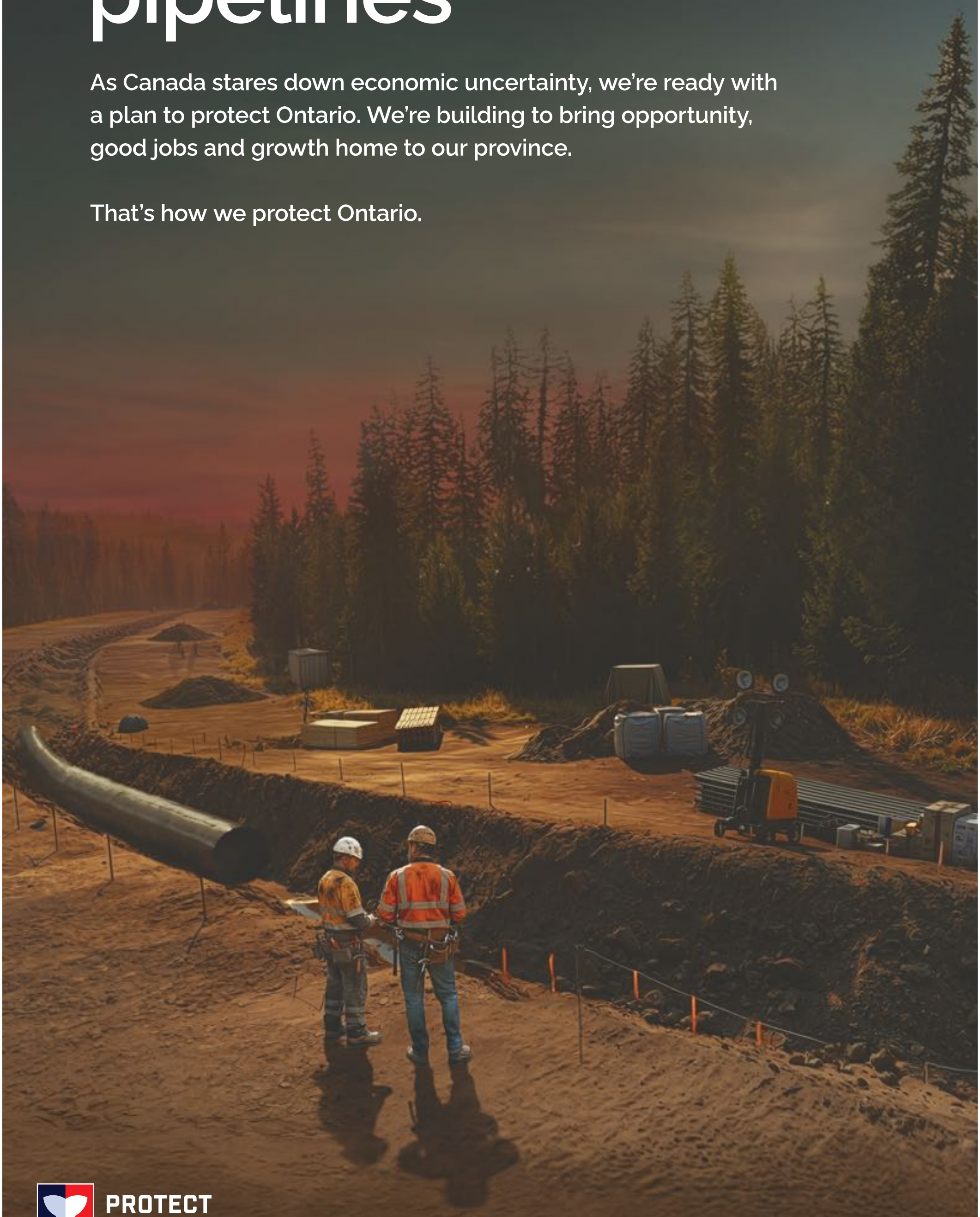
1. Impression in a surface
2. Computer language
3. Relating to the ear
4. Occupant
5. Member of Great Plains people
6. Social media firm
7. Digital audiotape
8. Midway between east and southeast
9. Chronic, progressive disease
10. Chinese lute
11. Not wet
12. Moves wings up and down
13. Communication devices
14. Swiss river
17. Female sibling
22. Receive
23. Relating to a type
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Steep bank
26. Taxi driver
28. Moves into without difficulty
29. Bicycle manufacturer
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on it
38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
40. Die
43. Matched
44. Literary genre __-fi
45. Cannot
46. Pounded
51. British rock group
54. Debt relief order
55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Ailments
60. Famed singer Charles
62. Camper

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ARTS & CULTURE

For the First Time in Forever: Stage Academy brings Frozen Jr. to the stage

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



PHOTO COURTESY OF STAGE ACADEMY

Last Saturday, Caledon residents packed Cyril Clark Theatre for the third sold-out show of Stage Academy's production of Frozen Jr, some even adorning their very own Frozen attire.

The production, which ran March 6 through March 8, truly had something for everyone.

The heartwarming magic of the original beloved scenes was brought to life, and both laughter and tears emerged from the audience as they watched the cast in this adaptation.

It's hard to believe the production almost never made it to the grand stage.

In 2020, Frozen Jr was three weeks away from opening night, costumes ready, lines in place, when the pandemic hit, halting it for numerous years.

Now, Stage Academy brought it back to life and thawed the hearts of all watching.

Cast members who were originally junior members on the team in the original show have now returned as senior members.

"To be able to bring this production to life after seven years with a different perspective and a new creative team, it was really exciting to finally bring Stage Academy the chance to bring Frozen to the stage," said director Michael Rosa.

This was Rosa's second time directing for Stage Academy, and he said he was grateful to be able to direct this production specifically and bring it to the audience.

The cast of 32 ranged in age from seven to seventeen.

But, no matter the age, each actor truly brought each character to the stage, even adding their own quirks and qualities to each role.

"The casting process was a long one because we had up to 50 people audition, which was a big disparity from last year where we had nearly 30," explained Rosa. "But I think we ended up with the right 32."

"We got people in roles that they didn't initially audition for, but they were convinced that it was the right role for them, and I bet you, if you ask them now, they'll say that that was the case," he said, laughing.

He added the audience has also expressed their love for the casting of each role.

"It was a long process, but I think we nailed the casting," he adds. "The reason Frozen is such a great show to produce is because there's so many different roles for different age ranges as well."

Producer – and Councillor for Ward 5 – Tony Rosa, added auditions began in October, and, since then, the cast and crew have met every Sunday for three hours until the big weekend finally arrived.

"What's remarkable is that it sounds like a long time but really it only works out to be 20 rehearsals until it hits the stage. So, three-hour rehearsals, 20 weeks, 60 hours of rehearsal before a patron comes in and watches the results," said Tony Rosa. "I believe these kids were ready for a stage."

A problem with the rehearsal time came due to the fact that the production had to be held in Brampton due to Caledon's lack of a theatre.

"It's unfortunately very much of a challenge because as much as we appreciate being able to come and use the facilities here and rent facilities in Brampton, we unfortunately have to wait till all the Brampton groups have been given dates because we're not a Brampton based group," Tony Rosa explained. "We have to wait and then whatever's left over we get. So, we were only able to get five days which basically means the students have one chance to have one rehearsal on the stage before it goes public."

Many Caledon groups face a similar situation, he added, turning to neighbouring municipalities to secure performance space.

"This is why we need our own theatre space," he continued. "We'll have to take what we can get until Caledon has its own performing arts centre."

But bringing the Caledon community to the performances, he said, is the easy part.

Tony Rosa explained that each performance was completely sold out, totalling in more than 800 people coming to see the production.

Next year, he said they're hoping to look for a larger venue to accommodate the growing audience.

"We're at full capacity which is a beautiful thing because the kids work so hard and they deserve a good audience," said Tony Rosa.

For him, he said it's about watching the spectacle come to life.

"This all starts with a script and a bunch of words and we lift them off the page and bring them to life and these students have really proven to be great storytellers. They're bringing credibility to the author, they're bringing credibility to Disney, they're really trying to recreate this story on stage and I'm really proud of the work that's been done here," said Tony Rosa.

For more than 20 weeks, director Michael Rosa and the Stage Academy crew have looked over the cast, perfecting and memorizing each line.

"We've been living at this theater for basically the past couple days, but these kids have grown to know the theater, know my expectations, and it's been such a cooperative cast to work with. It made the process really easy," he said, reflecting on the process.

Overall, he said it was a smooth process, with a cast who made it even easier.

"There's a lot of great youth in Caledon who really want to pursue the performing arts, but they can't really do that because of the theater situation. We don't really have a theater anywhere near Caledon and we have to outsource to cities like Brampton and Vaughan, and we are really happy with the hospitality and the way that they treat us, but these kids they're putting on such a great show it would have been so nice to do that at home," said Michael Rosa. "I'm really hoping that this can be a small part in potentially getting that process moving forward."

It appeared to be the perfect weekend to hold the production, with temperatures hitting up to 16 degrees.

It may have been Frozen inside the theatre, but definitely not outside.

"Look at the weather out there," said Tony Rosa. "The beautiful thing is that they're all in search of summer and so are we. I feel like this is the right year to have reintroduced this production."

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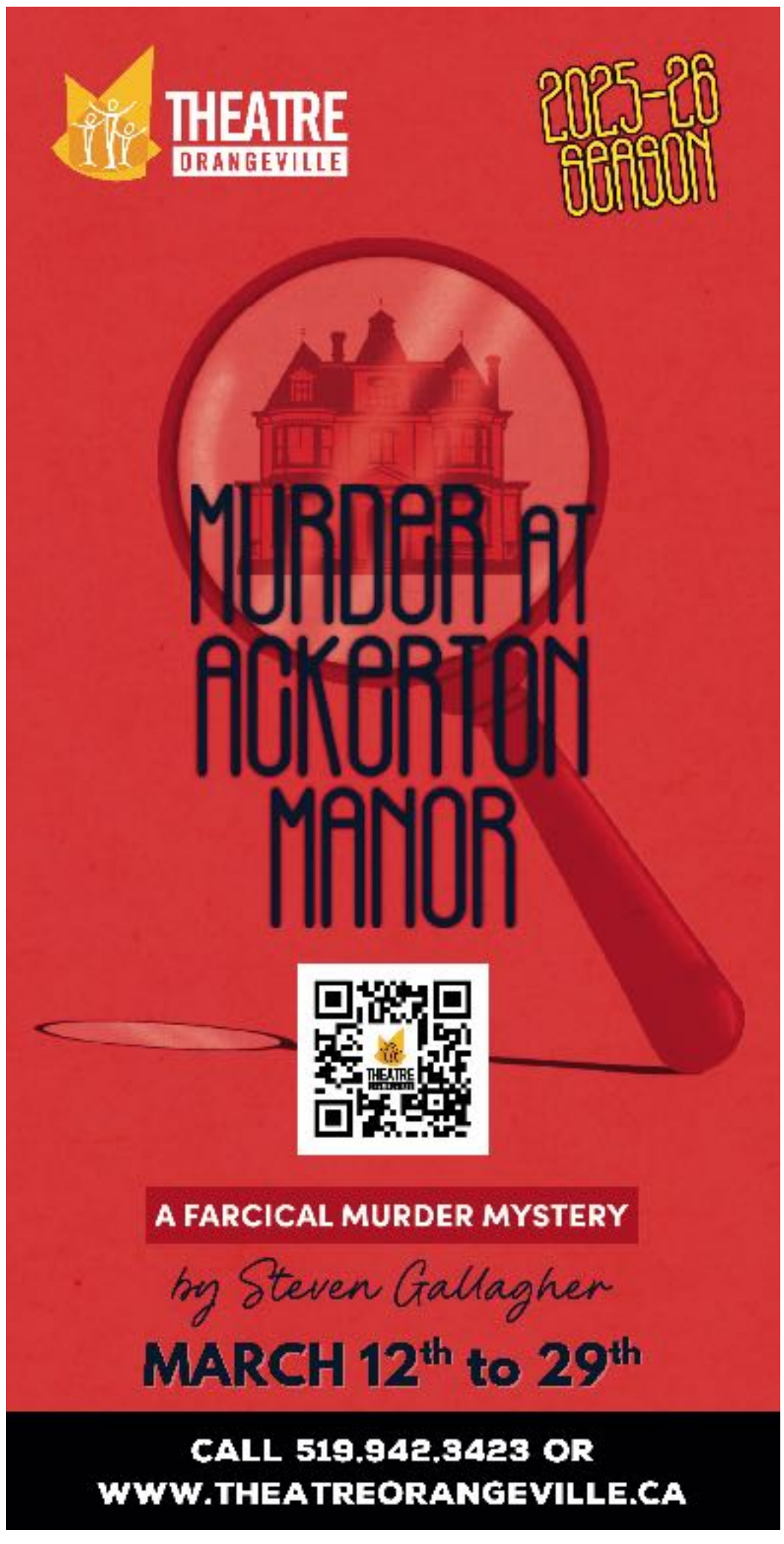
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Flowers takes residents on gardening journey at CPL



Attendees are seen enjoying CPL's seed garden. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Continued from FRONT

There were numerous ways the community could celebrate their green thumbs at the event, from plant exchanges to CPL's seed library to the numerous vendors around the complex.

But the free seeds were not the only big draw this year.

With the support of the Friends of Caledon Public Library, attendees enjoyed a presentation on gardening by Frank Ferragine, better known as "Frankie Flowers," a gardening expert and weatherman.

Ferragine is a two-time recipient of Landscape Ontario's Garden Communicator of the Year and an eight-time winner of Toronto's Favourite Weather Personality (Toronto Sun Reader's Award), and also a four-time bestselling author, consultant, garden writer, and philanthropist.

But he also works next door alongside his family at Bradford Greenhouses, "one of Ontario's largest combined greenhouse and garden centre operations."

Seats were completely filled as Ferragine gave his presentation, with a mix of his best gardening tips and tricks, many jokes, and even a quick weather report for the following days.

To see hundreds of people gathered around him that day, listening, Ferragine said, was humbling, recalling days when only one or two people would come to hear him speak.

"I'm a guy that came from Bradford, a small community, and I just started speaking. When I started, one person would come out, and then more people would come out. It's humbling, but then I just really hope I helped maybe one or two in the group, maybe all in the group," said Ferragine.

He says he was excited to come speak at the third annual Seedy Saturday for numerous reasons that day.

"I love Caledon, number one," he said. "What a great community, a community here that really knows about nature and knows about agriculture."

"If we can get more people in the garden, touching plants, I think we'll have a happier community, and I always just want to make people smile. If I can teach people how to grow something and have a good smile, that's the best thing."

Programming and Outreach coordinators with CPL Nancy Early and Leo Scardicchio talked about what made the third annual Seedy Saturday so special.

"Two words," said Early, laughing. "Frankie Flowers."

Aside from their guest of honour, Scardicchio said they love to bring the community together with their partners.

"With Caledon being a green community, we wanted to tie it all together. All of the efforts that the Town of Caledon does with the library, we just wanted to pair it and bring it together for the community," said Scardicchio.

Early adds their underlying themes of seed, soil, and sustainability, were intertwined into the entire event.

This year brought the new free giveaway seeds, the plant swap, and a book sale to support the Friends of CPL, she said.

Truly a community event, each vendor also brought something for the raffle, which ran throughout the event, and offered attendees a chance to win dried flowers, soups, and even a raised garden bed.

"Leo started this a couple of years ago," said Early. "Just by virtue of its growing, we've got more vendors this year than ever."

Scardicchio explained that Seedy Saturday began at Palgrave United Community Kitchen, and as the event grew, they needed more space. Through a partnership with CPL, they were able to not only provide the space but also the opportunity for PUCK to bring everything together through the library.

"There's so many people in our community that are gardening, and we're a big heavy gardening community, and everyone is about sustainability," said Scardicchio. "I think it just makes perfect sense to continue it year after year."

"One of the things we're looking to enrich, enlighten, and entertain – the three Es, and I think through this community building initiative, we're achieving all three," added Early.

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.*

Monthly Dinner – Friday, March 27, 2026
The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton is having a Monthly Dinner on Friday, March 27, 2026. The menu is Guinness Stew, Mashed Potatoes, Cabbage, Bun and Guinness Chocolate cake for dessert. Cost is $16. Pick-up at 5:15 pm, dine-in served at 5:30 pm, local delivery available for $2.
Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 by Thurs. March 25 at 3:30 pm to buy your tickets!

Lunch & Learn - Thursday, April 2, 2026.
The Caledon Seniors Centre is hosting their monthly Lunch & Learn on Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 11:00 am. Topic: Benefits To Walking Along The Trails. Presenter: Marion Johnston. A sandwich and dessert lunch will be served following the presentation. Cost is $7. Pre-registration is required. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to register.

Lunch & Bid Euchre Tournament – Sat. April 11, 2026
The Caledon Seniors Centre is hosting a Bid Euchre Tournament and Lunch on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at Rotary Place in Bolton. Check-in at 11:30 am, lunch served at 12:00 pm and tournaments start at 1:00 pm. The lunch menu is beef on a bun, au jus, french fries and carrot cake. Costs: lunch only $16, Tournament only $15 or Tournament and Lunch $20. Pre-registration is required by Thursday, April 9, 2026. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to register.

Income Tax clinic - Saturday, April 11, 2026
The Caledon Seniors Centre will be hosting a free Income Tax Clinic for seniors on Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 9:40 am to 3:30 pm at Rotary Place in Bolton. This is part of the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. Single income up to $45,000, couple income up to $55,000 and 3 people income up to $57,000. No bankruptcies, uber income, childcare or personal business, drivers returns, and no interest income more than $1,000.00. This is by appointment only. Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to book your space.

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BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Commonwealth, Common Goals

Much has been said in recent weeks about Canada's place in the world.

Actually, Canada's place in the world, and just what exactly that entails, has been a point of discussion, debate, and, yes, contention, since the very establishment of this country by Confederation in 1867.

While we Canadians, I believe, generally have a strong sense of self at the individual level, that's not always the case in the broader picture, and we're reminded of this from time to time.

Prior to the outbreak of the present war in Iran, one of the most potent immediate reasons for considering Canadian identity and this country's place in the world was ongoing economical and philosophical conflict with the United States, once one of our most trusted allies.

The question of what it means to be Canadian in a global context was posed well beyond Canada earlier this year when Prime Minister Mark Carney delivered his now-famous speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he called on middle powers like Canada to find strength in common ground.

"We are in the midst of a rupture, not a transition," said Carney on the international rules-based order. "Over the past two decades, a series of crises in finance, health, energy and geopolitics have laid bare the risks of extreme global integration. But more recently, great powers have begun using economic integration as weapons, tariffs as leverage, financial infrastructure as coercion, supply chains as vulnerabilities to be exploited.

"The multilateral institutions on which middle powers have relied — the WTO, the UN, the COP — the very architecture of collective problem solving, are under threat. And as a result, many countries are drawing the same conclusions: that they must develop greater strategic autonomy: in energy, food, critical minerals, in finance and supply chains. And this impulse is understandable. A country that cannot feed itself, fuel itself, or defend itself has few options. When the rules no longer protect you, you must protect yourself. But let's be clear-eyed about where this leads: a world of fortresses will be poorer, more fragile and less sustainable….

"Middle powers must act together because if we're not at the table, we're on the menu. But I'd also say that great powers can afford, for now, to go it alone. They have the market size, the military capacity and the leverage to dictate terms. Middle powers do not. But when we only negotiate bilaterally with a hegemon, we negotiate from weakness. We accept what's offered. We compete with each other to be the most accommodating. This is not sovereignty. It's the performance of sovereignty while accepting subordination. In a world of great power rivalry, the countries in between have a choice: compete with each other for favour or to combine to create a third path with impact. We shouldn't allow the rise of hard power to blind us to the fact that the power of legitimacy, integrity and rules will remain strong — if we choose to wield them together."

Underscoring this point, the Prime Minister said, "We know the old order is not coming back. We shouldn't mourn it. Nostalgia is not a strategy."

Nostalgia for our previous relationship with the United States is certainly not a strategy, I think we can all agree, but are there also opportunities in what so many consider to be nostalgia?

Monday was Commonwealth Day, an annual celebration held in the United Kingdom and in many parts of the world on the second Monday in March to celebrate the heritage, close bonds, and shared visions for the future of the more than 50 member states, most of which, but not all, have roots within the former British Empire.

It's a day that hardly causes a ripple in Canada, yet one that should be given much more significance.

Some might see this collection of member states that is the Commonwealth – several of which are considered "middle powers" – as, at best, an exercise in nostalgia for what once was (and, in many respects, what was once… well, was far from great), but it doesn't need to be. It's a global platform to share ideas and look to the future in conversations that aren't dominated by geopolitical behemoths.

It's an organization that, in addition to Canada and the United Kingdom, includes Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and more, along with scores of emerging nations and economies in the Caribbean and Central America, many parts of Africa, Asia, and the Oceanic states.

We might not all see the world in the same way, but given our common roots, each member of the Commonwealth has a bit of a head start in understanding where each other has come from, where each other is headed – and in forging or renewing links, that is often half the battle.

These links were not only demonstrated at the start of the week at Westminster Abbey as representatives from member states joined the King and Queen, High Commissioners from each member nation, cultural representatives and more in a cavalcade in what brings this disparate group of countries together, but also in Canberra, Australia, when the Prime Minister of Canada made a rare speech before the Australian Parliament – fresh off his visit to another member state, India.

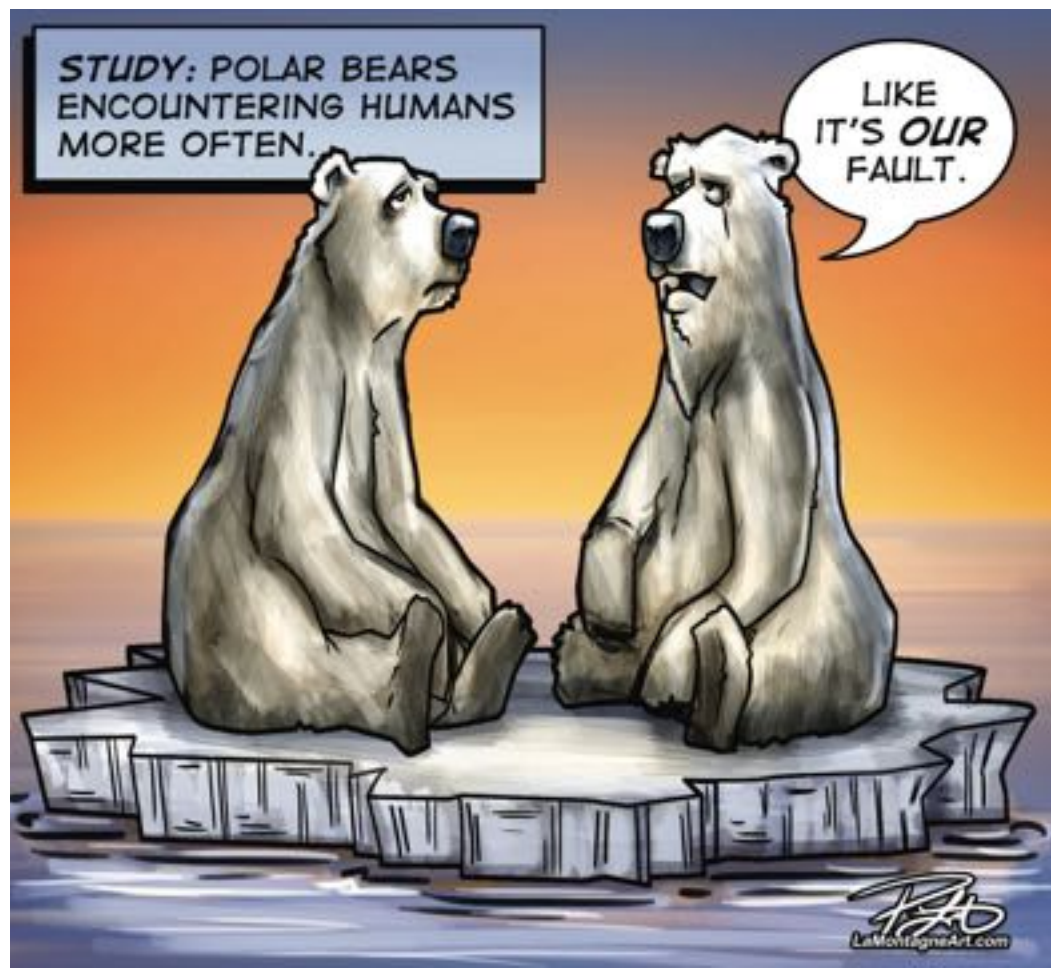
"For us, as two democracies in an age of polarisation, as two dynamic trading nations in a time of disrupted supply chains, and as two middle powers in an era of strategic competition, Australia and Canada must seek and create new ways to stand with and for each other," said Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, welcoming Carney into Parliament. "For all the comfortable ties of old affection, what makes the friendship between Australia and Canada noteworthy is what we do not share. We do not share a border, a region, a hemisphere, or any market smaller than the global one. Yet this makes the connection between our countries more meaningful, not less, because our cooperation, our partnership, is a positive choice, not a necessity….

"When we act together, we demonstrate to our citizens that government is not a passive institution. It is an instrument for positive change. And what's more, when we send a message to all those nations that look to us as equals, as peers, as neighbours, and as leaders, that they too have a choice, agency, and a part to play, because peace, security, and prosperity are not the preserve of the great powers alone. They are our common cause and our collective responsibility."

Hopefully this is the start of a new era of understanding and cooperation between a unique group of nations that have an understanding of each other, face common challenges, and can forge unique solutions together.

Some might find the Commonwealth as simply a nostalgic vestige of our history, but, to my mind, it offers significant opportunity that has been all too often overlooked.

Here's to our shared futures, if we take advantage of them!



We're becoming slaves to the "working day"

by Mark Pavilons



Like the dwarves in Snow White, I "owe," so it's off to work I go. Day in and day out, month after month, year after year.

After so many years of climbing the ladder, who isn't tempted to simply "walk away?"

Just ask The Box, who proclaimed in their 1984 tune Walk Away:

I caught myself dreaming of an open field
In October when the wind turns the sky to grey
I could stand still there in the middle of the hay
Could do nothing but to wish time would fade slowly here
It's a working day, a rainy day ...
Walk, walk, walk away ...
It's a mid-week day, a working day...
Walk, walk, walk away ..."

The brain, according to Robert Frost, is a wonderful organ. "It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get into the office."

It's funny that we've come to the point where we have to remind ourselves to switch off, unhook, unplug at the end of a work day. How many still answer calls, texts and emails into the evening?

As Michelle Obama put it, "we need to do a better job of putting ourselves higher on our own 'to do' list."

And yet Joseph Campbell observed one of the western world's realities: "I think the person who takes a job in order to live – that is to say, for the money – has turned himself into a slave."

Here, in top-shelf North America, our work day involves getting up to an alarm, commuting upwards of an hour to work, chugging along for eight hours or so, and then heading home. Sometimes, we head out to lunch, a less than nutritional, quick meal somewhere near our office. Often, we eat at our desk, in front of our computer.

I'm sure we've all had bosses who didn't care one iota about their employees. I've also had to follow directives, no matter how ludicrous, from the higher ups over the years.

We're scrambling in search of a balance, something we've ignored for decades. Now we're paying the price.

I'm not sure why we haven't taken some pointers from our brothers and sisters around the globe, who practise a very strict life-work relationship.

I'm a foodie and love travel shows on TV. So, I thought I'd point to the Italian approach to work.

The Italian work day is designed for living, not just laboring. The rhythm of work follows a different beat than in many other countries. It's one that accommodates family, leisure, and that essential midday meal.

And this approach to working hours is firmly grounded in legislation designed to protect worker rights and wellbeing. The standard work week is legally set at 40 hours, typically distributed across five days.

The maximum working week cannot exceed 48 hours averaged over a four-month period. This ceiling is enforced to prevent worker exploitation and maintain healthy work-life boundaries.

Also, overtime work is strictly regulated.

The typical Italian day might run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by a lengthy lunch break of two to three hours. Work then resumes from 3 or 4 p.m. until 6 or 7 p.m. This schedule acknowledges both the biological reality of the post-lunch dip and the cultural importance of enjoying a proper meal, often with family.

The extended mid-day break allows people to return home for freshly prepared meals, visit local markets, or simply enjoy a slower pace.

Many Italian businesses maintain the tradition of closing early on Fridays, allowing workers to get a head start on the weekend.

Italy offers a generous allocation of both public holidays and vacation time. The country has 11 nationwide public holidays.

Civil servants also enjoy this type of flexible schedule. Government offices, including local municipalities, judicial bodies, and educational institutions, typically operate from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Friday.

This condensed schedule allows public sector employees to dedicate afternoons to personal interests, family, and social activities. Many public sector entities close for a lunch break, usually for an hour between 12 and 1 p.m.

Being a fan of Italian travel shows, and the spate of Stanley Tucci episodes, it's the love of food that grabs my attention.

Italians (like many others) are passionate about fresh, home-made dishes, with ingredients grown only footsteps away.

I've never made pasta from scratch or sipped a wine bottled just down the street. But it's on my bucket list.

Italy is not unique.

Spain, too, is known for its mid-day siestas and socializing with colleagues after work is also ingrained in their culture.

It's common for employers in France to offer four-day work weeks, and the French actually frown upon "workaholism."

In Switzerland, a whopping 35% still work from home and most enjoy a minimum of four weeks holidays.

Conversely, in many Asian cultures, working longer hours shows dedication and loyalty. But this has some profound consequences, not the least of which is a ding to family life.

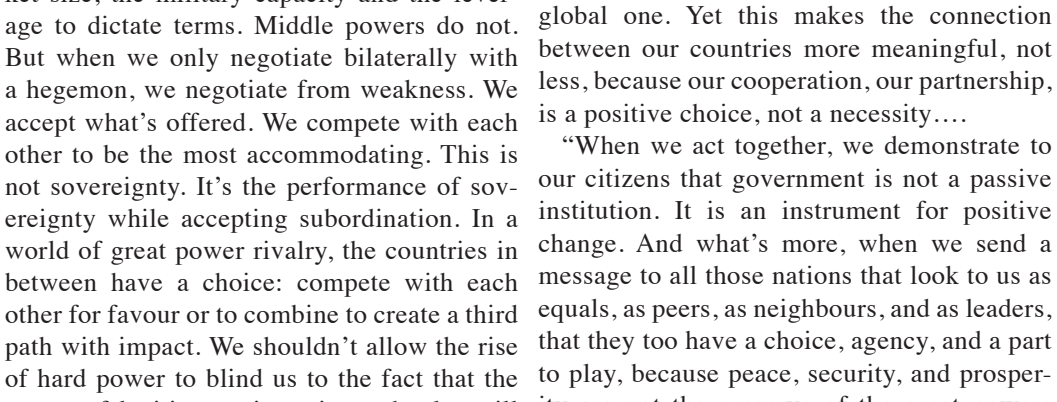
What I find odd is that many countries actually limit the hours in a work week by law.

It shows the government puts personal health and wellbeing above bottom-line productivity.

So, while we Canadians (and The Box) dream of an open field where the wind kisses our tired mugs, our counterparts have got it down pat. What are we doing wrong and why are missing out on so much in life?

I say let's make extended mid-day breaks mandatory for all. Let's organize massive, community pot-lucks on a regular basis. Let's raise a glass!

Who's with me?



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SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



"The media release"

In this business we see a fair few media releases. They are documents sent as a means of communicating with the media, often about upcoming events of interest or, alternatively, when it comes from the municipal, provincial or federal government, one which fulfills a certain purpose. A media release might be about matters the government is required to publish to keep the community informed, or they are used when the government has something to brag about. Typically just one page long, a media release is a "highlight reel" of sorts and can be an invaluable tool for sharing information. After the announcement itself, the one-pager usually includes a little synopsis of the organization who sent it.

So what's the big deal?

I won't speak for other members of the editorial team but having been both a sender, and receiver, of many media releases, efficiency demands that they be skimmed quickly rather than dissected intently. Unless you're me, of course, and something jumps off the page.

With a little more time on my hands, I've been paying a bit more attention of late to some of the standard media releases coming from the Town's communications team. Whether a notification, a good news story or one about how much our taxes will go up if the responsibility for roads is downloaded from Peel Region, they all contain the same message at the end.

It's a little blurb that states: "Caledon is home to close to 80,000 residents and 4,000 businesses and is well-known for its natural attractions, rural charm and vital role in the economic engine of the Greater Toronto Area." Further, the blurb acknowledges we are a growing community, and then references our strategic plan with the comment: "Under its current strategic plan, Caledon's priorities remain environmental leadership, community vitality and livability, enhanced transportation and mobility, and service excellence and accountability."

Is it just me or does this all sound just a tiny bit disingenuous? I'm sure the population numbers are accurate (at least for now) but "natural attractions?" "Rural charms?" OK, maybe we will agree on the vital role as an "economic engine" since there are so many warehouses, trucks and container yards in Caledon that I assume we must be serving as the economic engine of the entire GTA. As for the other claims, I'm a little dubious.

After all, the words paint a picture of a Caledon that "used to be," but which, in my opinion, is changing dramatically and not necessarily in a good way. Decisions are being made that have a very real, and potentially negative and harmful impact on our environment. Natural attractions and rural charm are being decimated, not through "environmental leadership," as the media release proclaims, but rather through a series of decisions that could very well see significant and harmful impacts to our groundwater, agricultural lands, and rural hamlets and villages. Bringing in commercial fill, potentially allowing blasting mega-quarries and building upwards of 35,000 homes will do that.

There is not much to suggest that we are doing any better to enhance transportation, either.

There are untold additional trucks on area roads, servicing hundreds of warehouses and/or ferrying fill, or hauling gravel to and from the many pits and quarries that already dot our landscape. None of this is helping the traffic situation. The somewhat vague promise of GO transit coming "soon" and the lack of any meaningful public transit here also doesn't exactly "scream" enhanced transportation and mobility.

To be fair to the Town, about the only thing I might agree on – and only in part – is the community vitality portion. One recent media release was a good news announcement about making fitness, healthy living and community connection more accessible to seniors.

Starting April 1, 2026, all rec. centre memberships will be free for Caledon residents 65 years and older. That's fantastic. For many seniors, living on reduced earnings, or a pension, expenses need to be more closely managed and yet we all know the benefits of both healthy living, and connecting with others in helping to reduce social isolation. So, although the Town failed to acknowledge in the media release any guidance I understand they might have received from an age-friendly task force that included local citizens, I still say kudos on extending this benefit to the senior community. After all, with all this development, traffic and pits being filled while quarries are emptied, it's not like we will be able to walk outside safely for much longer!

The "media release" serves a purpose to be sure. Whether mandated by law to satisfy "notice to residents" requirements, or to brag about something positive happening around town, local media use the media release as a tool to relay that information to the public. What bears more scrutiny is how they tend to be written, the information that is included (or excluded) and that little blurb at the bottom? Maybe a dose of reality might be more refreshing!

Council approves interim overnight parking accommodation and pilot program for Alderbrook

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Council has approved an interim overnight parking accommodation and pilot

program for Alderbrook in Bolton, with dedicated overnight parking spaces at Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness (CCRW).

At Tuesday's Council meeting, Councillor Cosimo Napoli brought forward a motion to provide the community at Alderbook in Bolton with interim overnight parking accommodation and to begin the process of a pilot program.

His motion states that Alderbrook Place in Bolton has experienced ongoing parking challenges and is uniquely situated adjacent to the CCRW, where residents of the Alderbrook community have historically utilized parking for overnight purposes for approximately 10 to 15 years, notwithstanding existing parking restrictions.

It also states that recent enforcement of applicable parking regulations has resulted in increased

community concern and requests for relief, particularly where some properties have limited

on-site parking capacity.

He noted that the proximity of CCRW presents an opportunity to pilot both interim and longer-

term parking accommodation measures consistent with the broader municipal parking strategy.

Council unanimously approved the motion.

This motion will now direct staff to allocate up to 10 parking spaces at the CCRW for overnight residential parking for eligible Alderbrook Place residents; these spots would be part of a pilot overnight paid parking permit program, where residents would have to meet eligibility requirements.

As an interim measure, and until a formal permit system is established, existing "No Parking" and three-hour limited parking signage will be removed or temporarily covered for those designated spaces to permit overnight parking.

Going forward, staff will monitor and evaluate the pilot program, including community feedback, and will report back to Council with details of the permit framework prior to implementation.

This pilot program comes forward following the recent undertaking of the Southfields Parking Study and the implementation of a pilot program.

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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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Caledon Village resident Kate Hepworth showed a slide of a truck running a red light.
PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Council refers Caledon Village Bypass feasibility motion back to staff

Continued from FRONT

She's lived in Caledon Village for 20 years and began advocating for 15 of those.

In her delegation, she depicted numerous traffic violations and safety concerns that happen almost daily in the Caledon Village core.

Highway 10, which runs through the core, is under the jurisdiction of the MTO, which presented challenges in discussions regarding the motion.

Domenica D'Amico, Commissioner of Engineering, Public Works and Transportation, stated at the meeting she estimates the study would take two years, cost up to two million dollars, and is not something her department would have the staff or resources to complete at this time.

D'Amico said that she does not have the authority to issue a feasibility study on a road that Caledon doesn't own, adding that this would have to be something MTO would lead.

Early added that she's looking to start the conversation in this regard.

"There's been enough conversation about this Highway 10 that if we don't start taking some seriousness here and putting something on the floor, that will at least get us to the next step," says Early. "I would hate to see what Caledon is going to look like in ten years in that particular area."

Kiernan added to the historical aspect of the motion, saying this is not the first time something like this has come to the Council floor.

In 2016, she said, Regional Councillor Barb Shaughnessy tabled a motion asking for the MTO to complete a feasibility study for the Highway 10 bypass.

"This will not be on Caledon's back. We need the MTO involved in this," said Kiernan.

She added that while the MTO believes when the 413 is built, it will alleviate traffic in Caledon Village, "it will not alleviate what's going on in Caledon Village, and I will stand by that forever. We need that bypass,"

Not only have concerns arisen about congestion, safety concerns, impact on air quality, and noise, she said, but also about the impact on the heart of a historic village.

"The community has been living this for years. The challenge is real. The question is whether we're willing to do the work to properly examine long-term solutions," says Kiernan. "To be clear, this motion does not commit us to build anything. It simply asks to partner with the MTO for a feasibility study that was requested ten years ago."

Mayor Annette Groves recognized the issues on Highway 10, saying she is disappointed with the MTO, as they have been "knocking on their door for many, many years," regarding Caledon's advocacy surrounding both Highway 50 and Highway 10.

She also recalled when former Councillors Ian Sinclair and Councillor Paterak both brought forward this bypass.

Councillor Cosimo Napoli expressed his concerns regarding staff comments.

"What's the sense of passing a motion that our staff can't do anything with?" he asked.

He put forward a referral to bring the motion back to staff to complete a report with future steps to take.

"I think a referral is just going to bring back a staff report that's going to keep us in limbo like it was the last 20 years for [Councillors] that have put motions on the floor, and I think we need to move forward with this," Early says in regard.

Groves added that she supported the referral, as it will also feature conversations with the MTO when it comes back.

"We've been talking about Highway 10 for years and years and years. We still don't have all those solutions that we asked for and over to MTO," says Groves.

Various Councillors also voiced their agreement with the referral being the first step.

"To initiate something means to start the ball rolling, and if you think MTO is going to take the initiative here, that's not going to happen," said Kiernan in return.

In the end, Council passed the referral of the motion to staff to bring back a future report.

Vera M. Davis Centre expanding emotion-based dementia care through new provincial program

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In the Ontario Government's plans to strengthen dementia care in long-term care homes, they have announced the first 17 homes participating in the new Improving Dementia Care Program (IDCP), including Caledon's Vera M. Davis Centre.

The centre has been serving the community since its opening in September 1984.

The government will invest $9 million over three years to support this program, 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," says 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."

Ann-Marie Case-Volkert, Senior Director, Long Term Care, Peel Region, says that the centre originally applied for the program as the success of emotion-based care in existing certified home areas, where it has strengthened quality dementia care, demonstrates the need for frameworks that support the equitable spread and scale of approaches like emotion-based care.

The program focuses on building strong relationships between staff, residents and families while creating environments that reflect residents' individual needs and experiences.

From a day-to-day perspective, Case-Volkert says the program allows them to establish more flexibility in the day, particularly at mealtimes, and increases opportunities for engagement through activities that are familiar and meaningful to each person.

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

Case-Volkert says that this funding will help extend emotion-based care beyond the current Butterfly home area to all areas of the home.

"The Butterfly Approach to emotion-based care strives to create environments for people living with dementia that are enriching, engaging, and more home-like. Its goal is to meet their emotional needs and encourage self-expression, build meaningful connections, and improve quality of life," says Case-Volkert.

She adds that the benefits of emotion-based care for residents living with dementia include a high quality of life, no or mild mood symptoms of depression, and high social engagement.

"Emotion-based dementia care focuses on who a person is, not just care tasks, valuing each individual's emotions, personal history, interests, and lived experiences," says Case-Volkert.

Nando Iannicca, Peel Regional Chair and CEO, stated in a press release that this IDCP funding will allow them 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," says Iannicca.



(Left to right) Ann-Marie Case-Volkert, Senior Director, Long Term Care, a Vera M. Davis Centre resident, Support worker at Vera M. Davis, Councillor Tedjo, Government Relations Committee Chair, MPP Sylvia Jones, a Vera M. Davis Centre resident, Judy Buchan, Peel and Health Services representative, Whitney Harrison, Director of Seniors Services Development.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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SPORTS

Humberview Huskies' Daniel Chmura commits to Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks football scholarship

BY JIM STEWART



Humberview's Daniel Chmura, third from right, is pictured at the signing ceremony for his commitment to the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks.
PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

Daniel Chmura entered the Humberview Secondary School Library on Wednesday afternoon amid hearty applause from his blue-hoodied football teammates.

After shaking hands with dozens of Huskies, the guest of honor took his place at the Head Table which included Athletic Director and Senior Football Head Coach Adrian Piscitelli, Huskies' Football Coach and Humberview Grad Michael Esposito, and Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks Associate Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator Ron VanMoerkerke.

The Grade 12 student—referred to as "the most feared Defensive End in ROPSSAA"—signed a scholarship to study Business at Wilfrid Laurier University and play football for the Golden Hawks.

Chmura was one of the catalysts of his fledgling football club's rise in fortunes in 2025.

The #3-ranked Huskies finished 3-3 after the regular season, and the squad's success culminated in a 42-34 upset of #2-ranked Cardinal Ambrozic CSS in the ROPSSAA Tier 2 semifinals on November 14, prior to a tough 50-14 loss to Lorne Park in the Regional Final championship.

The defensive star spoke glowingly of his teammates and coaches in his short address and reflected fondly in a post-ceremony interview about the best part of committing to the WLU Golden Hawks.

"It just proved that all my hard work paid off. I've put in 5-6 days a week of workouts for the last two years to get stronger. My fears about coming back for a fifth year to high school disappeared when I committed to the Golden Hawks. Playing here this Fall really opened a lot of doors for me."

He expressed what he's looking forward to the most about attending Wilfrid Laurier: "To live on my own—to be able to compete against the best of the best in Canadian university football. I have to go and compete for a spot as a freshman, but I really like competition."

When asked why he chose Laurier, Chmura delineated his academic goals when he arrives at the Waterloo, ON, campus in September.

"I want to earn a BBA—Bachelor of Business Administration. They have a really good Business program so I'll need to manage my time to balance athletics and academics."

Chmura's gridiron goal in his first year with the OUA powerhouse Golden Hawks "is to dress. It's almost impossible to start so I want to find a way to help the team as much as I can by getting on the Special Teams and be the best version of myself."

The forward-looking Chmura was the best version of himself in his most memorable moment of the 2025 high school football season:

"When we were in the semifinals game in triple OT. As Defensive End, on the second-last play of the game, I got the sack. On the last play of the game, I was able to pressure the [Ambrozic CSS] quarterback that led to a pick that won us the game."

Among the dignitaries attending the celebration and culmination of Chmura's five-year football career at Humberview was Wards 4, 5, and 6 Regional Councillor Mario Russo.

The long-time ardent advocate of youth sports in Caledon presented a certificate of achievement from the Town and applauded Chmura's on-field and off-field achievements.

"Daniel, congratulations to you and your family. We really are so proud of your achievements and the sacrifices you've made. You'll be representing the entire Town of Caledon at Laurier. Go Huskies! Go Hawks!"

Veteran Humberview Quarterback Ian McCausland offered some personal and appreciative insights into Chmura as a teammate.

"First of all, I go all the way back with Daniel when we both started. He showed us about the importance of dedication and he always built people up. He inspired me and I think he's going to be a big asset to Laurier. In many ways, Daniel is responsible for my signing next week with Guelph."

Athletic Director and Emcee Piscitelli acknowledged McCausland's imminent signing with the Gryphons and added that Chmura represented "The End of an Era" at Humberview.

"Daniel is the last of the post-COVID players."

The Huskies' Head Coach offered his thanks to "Michael Esposito—a grad of Humberview—who began coaching with us in 2021 and has helped me build this football team."

Piscitelli also thanked "Principal John Colton who has supported us as we grew the football program" and "The Town of Caledon for supporting our Friday Night Lights game and for Councillor Russo for attending today's ceremony."

The amiable AD praised the legendary career of Golden Hawks Coach VanMoerkerke:

"We are in the presence of greatness—the most highly-respected university football coach in Canada. He's committed to his school and his players. He also cares deeply about the development of high school football coaches and athletes. He helped us build the foundation of the Huskies football program. I have stolen from you and emulated you."

In the climactic address of the ceremony, Piscitelli lavished praise on Chmura: "Daniel, you've led by example and you've been afraid of nothing."

"You've always demanded the best of yourself. I encourage all players to follow Daniel's example. Daniel evolved into our leader and we saw a tremendous step forward this year for the team and Daniel after a disappointing Grade 12 season."

Piscitelli charmed the audience with his anecdotes—Freudian slips and all. He described Chmura's transformation over the Summer prior to the 2025 season: "He became the extension of our coaching staff. He led with reassuring courage. His hard work and dedication was inspirational, but he also created fear as he literally knocked opposing quarterbacks' helmets off their heads. Now, he's ready for the best university football program in the country."

One of the leaders of that program closed off the ceremony when Ron VanMoerkerke, the veteran Defensive Coordinator, Associate Head Coach, and Defensive Line Coach of the OUA Laurier Golden Hawks, took centre stage and praised the value of football programs and Chmura's readiness for university football.

"When you have a football program, you are building up the school and the community. It's a pleasure to be here to see the football program's improvements. Like many programs, Laurier football is not all about facilities—many other schools have better ones. What we do is recruit hard-working players who want to play WLU football. I know that Daniel will progress at the University level. It's hard not to get a little emotional about days like this. I get to work with the best of the best and we are thrilled to add Daniel to our team."

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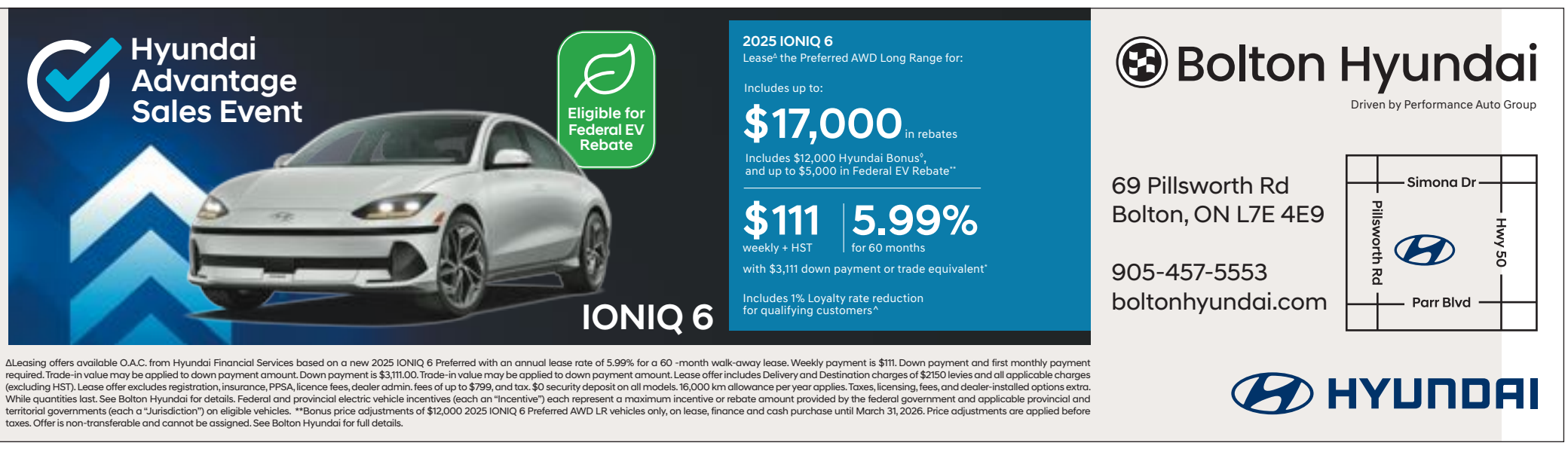
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BUSINESS

YOUR SOURCE FOR BUSINESS IN CALEDON

Residents raise concerns over delayed cooling system at Town of Erin wastewater treatment plant

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It was 2018 when Belfountain resident Ann Seymour, who had lived there for over 20 years, was standing in line at a grocery store when a nearby resident turned to her and asked if she had heard of the Town of Erin's proposed wastewater treatment plant.

The effluent from the treatment plant is planned to flow directly into the West Credit River, the very river Seymour's property backs onto.

Eight years later, the treatment plant is still on Seymour's mind daily.

The Town of Erin's wastewater treatment plant is being built to service Erin and Hillsburgh. The plant will help the Town accommodate future and current development and growth.

In August of 2019, the Town of Erin received the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' approval of the completed Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, allowing the Town to proceed with the creation of wastewater solutions.

The plant is designed to discharge treated effluent into the West Credit River.

As part of an Environmental Compliance Approval, the Town must cool the effluent to 19 degrees Celsius before it enters the river.

This includes covers and shades over tanks and clarifiers, mechanical chillers, and the pre-cooling of heated water by future water-intensive businesses, and the approval also includes future monitoring of river water.

Part of this is thanks to the Coalition for the West Credit River.

The coalition was formed in 2020, but a group of community members and concerned residents had formed back in 2018.

Seymour was part of the original group, and she explains that the official coalition was formed after a presentation in 2020, during which their group spoke on the West Credit River downstream from Wellington County and showed attendees Redds.

Redds are a type of spawning bed for certain species of trout, particularly brown and brook trout, and Seymour explains that these redds were found throughout the West Credit River, where the treated effluent would be flowed into.

In their presentation, she explains that they noted a healthy population of brook trout still present in the West Credit River.

"What we're trying to do is protect a last remaining reach of cold water ecosystem," says Seymour. "That was the beginning, and then everybody said, 'Hey, wait a minute, we can't lose this reach of the river with this ecosystem in it. Let's work together to try to mitigate the design for the wastewater treatment plant.'"

Brook trout thrive at 19 degrees Celsius, and with effluent flowing into the West Credit River, the coalition feared the potential increase in temperature would affect the species.

John Monczka from Freshwater Conservation Canada describes the West Credit River as a "special place."

"That's the way I refer to it because a lot of people don't know that you've got this resource, a self-sustaining native brook trout population, within about an hour and a half's drive of close to six million people, which is pretty special given what we've done to Southern Ontario," he says.

He adds that typically, more cold water systems existed in Southern Ontario prior to development, "through development, channelization, lack of forest cover, taking everything down, and pollution coming in, you've basically destroyed the majority of the brook trout habitat, streams that lead to Lake Ontario."

In 2019, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks had initially approved the proposed treatment plant, saying that "an individual environmental assessment is not required," reads the letter on the Town of Erin's website.

The report on the plant, says Monczka, reads that the maximum effluent temperature would be 19 degrees.

Many of the streams in this area get quite warm, he says, and any addition could potentially raise the temperature.

Seymour says that the temperature taken when the initial study was done was "the coolest year within 10 or 12 years," which she explains lacks an overall average for the study.

So, in 2021, the group took it upon themselves to set up water-temperature monitoring devices near the outfalls of other sewage treatment plants in the area, and in the summer, they recorded temperatures as high as 22 degrees.

"We took that to the Ministry and said this is what we found, and we believe that there has to be something done to chill the effluent," retells Monczka. In May of 2022, he says, an Environmental Compliance Approval was issued, noting that the effluent must be cooled before discharge into the river.

This would be Canada's first municipal effluent-cooling system incorporated into the facility's design, but the Town has experienced delays with the system.

"March the 6th, 2026, and we don't have a cooling system installed," says Monczka.

On February 12, at the Town of Erin's Council meeting, former Caledon councillor Ian Sinclair delegated on behalf of the coalition.

He noted the coalition's concerns regarding the delay.

"We have received, last Friday, some essentially plumbing diagrams of a cooling system, but no information of what those diagrams really meant," said Sinclair at the meeting.

"The Ministry of Environment issued the Certificate of Approval on May 3, 2022, over three years ago, requiring an effluent cooling system designed to reduce effluent temperature, and apparently, the Town of Erin Council has requested the Ministry of Environment allow a delay in operation of the effluent cooling system."

He also voiced concerns about potential impacts on the West Credit River and the brook trout population, as well as questions about the current construction.

Town of Erin Council members expressed their appreciation for the coalition, their work, and their solidarity with the coalition.

Monczka adds that they have asked Council questions regarding the delay, but have received no answers.

"To not have that cooling system ready to go along with the operation of the plant treating sewage, leaves a big question mark in our heads," he says.

This was not the first time the coalition has delegated; it previously came to the Town of Erin Council on December 13, 2023, and to Peel Region on January 27, 2022, June 9, 2022, and April 24, 2025.

They have also continued to connect with First Nations and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation as part of their ongoing advocacy.

Part of their concerns also account for climate change, as Monczka says the summers are only going to get warmer.

He explains the Coalition is not alone in this; groups such as the Belfountain Community Organization, Ontario Streams, and Ontario River Alliance have joined them to advocate for the brook trout population and the preservation of the cold-water system.

A lot of their worry stems down to the Credit taking this amount of effluent.

When the facility is designed to emit an average of 7.2 million litres of treated effluent per day.

"It's a small, sensitive receiver for 7.2 million liters of effluent," says Seymour, noting the estimated amount.

For the coalition, it's not just the environmental impacts, but also the communication issues they've experienced.

As Caledon residents, Seymour explains there was no communication.

"Having a border is problematic. That part of this ecosystem is in Erin or Wellington County, and the other is in Caledon, and there was no downstream consultation with residents," she says.

But her concern is not just as a resident neighbouring the credit, "my concern is the ecosystem," she says.

As a past environmental educator, Seymour says she "cannot live with taking away another species' habitat."

"That's why I speak up about this river and try to protect this river," she says. "I'm just so grateful that these other groups are helping and involved in seeing this beautiful species still living here."



The West Credit River flowing through Belfountain

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

She adds that it is important not only to protect native species and the integrity of the cold-water ecosystem, but also the benthic life.

"It is extraordinary how much insect life is still on this river, and my concern is that that will disappear," says Seymour. "My fear is that upstream development comes at the cost of this river."

An effect on one will affect all, she continues to explain, noting the various bird species that come to the West Credit River.

"You've got a diversity of species here. This is what's living here, and it's all tied together with maintaining. If you didn't have all these trees here and your water here, your list might be a lot shorter," says Monczka.

As a former educator, Seymour has continued that in her advocacy, bringing school groups to the river to view both the bird-monitoring device and their livestream underwater fish cam, both in the West Credit River.

Outreach and education are something she says they have done a lot of over the years.

"The more you educate, the better people understand."

Since the treatment plant was brought forward, Seymour says they have been working constantly.

"Lots of presentations, panel discussions, school visits," she says. "We've been at this a long time."

Next steps for the coalition, they say, look like connecting with Council and, hopefully, hearing answers to their long-standing questions.

"Looking at those kinds of issues, hopefully going forward, there's great lessons to be learned from this situation," says Monczka.

The Town of Erin was contacted for comment, but no response was received by press time.

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

DR. JAMES ROBERT MACMILLAN

SEPTEMBER 25, 1936 – MARCH 3, 2026

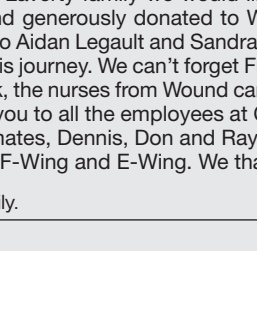


Dr. James Robert MacMillan passed away peacefully on March 3, 2026, at Campbell House, Hospice Georgian Triangle, with his children by his side. He was surrounded by the love and support of family and dear friends in his final days. Jim was a dearly loved father, grandfather, and physician whose life was defined by devotion to family and friends, a lifelong connection to his Scottish roots, and a legacy of compassion and kindness that touched thousands of lives throughout his decades of medical practice in Dufferin County.

He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

A celebration of Jim's life will take place on Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 1 p.m. at the Bear Estate in Collingwood. Arrangements entrusted to Fawcett Funeral Home - Collingwood. *www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com*

JAMES "JIM" BERRY

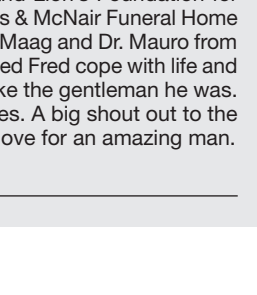


It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Jim, who died peacefully at Dufferin Oaks in Shelburne on Friday, February 27, 2026, at the age of 90.

Jim was the loving father of Nancy Andrew (Jim Weedman), Lynn Watt (Ken), Sheila Craig, and Jay Berry. He was the proud grandfather of Colleen Andrew, Devon Andrew, Norm Craig (Aria Huang), Tyler Craig (Melissa Cameron), Josh Watt, Jordan Watt (Jolene), Cassandra Berry and Cody Berry (Brittany Reid); great-grandfather of Rachel Watt and was looking forward to the arrival of Cody and Brittany's child. Jim will be fondly remembered by his sister, Diane Stephens. Predeceased by our mother, Helen Berry.

Cremation has taken place and a celebration of life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial donations to the Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care Home.

ELEANOR MUIR



Peacefully at Bethell Hospice on Monday, March 9th, 2026, at the age of 101, just two weeks short of her 102nd birthday. Beloved wife of the late Angus (1985). Loving mother of Catherine (Brian), Alex (Judy), the late Jim (2025), Ian (Nancy), and Earl (Carol). Cherished grandmother of 11 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Eleanor will also be greatly missed by her many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Funeral Service will be held at Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre 21 First St Orangeville, Ontario on Saturday, March 14th, 2026 at 11:00 am. Visitation will begin at 10:00 am.

Memorial donations to Bethell Hospice would be appreciated by the family.

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

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

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THANK YOU

GILES / LAVERTY

On behalf of the Giles / Laverty family we would like to say thank you to all those who attended Fred's visitation and funeral and generously donated to Westminster United Church and Lion's Foundation for Guide dogs. Thank you to Aidan Legault and Sandra McLauchlan-Abuja and Dod's & McNair Funeral Home for helping us through this journey. We can't forget Fred's doctors and nurses, Dr. Maag and Dr. Mauro from Highland Health Network, the nurses from Wound care and Comfort care who helped Fred cope with life and keep his dignity. Thank you to all the employees at Chartwell who treated Fred like the gentleman he was. Thank you to his table mates, Dennis, Don and Ray. You became his best buddies. A big shout out to the Dr's and Nurses in ICU, F-Wing and E-Wing. We thank you all for your amazing love for an amazing man.

Mark, David, Lynne & Family.



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Notes:Consign items-Please call **Orvie L. Martin 519-323-3256** or **Amos Bearinger 519-323-1342** Receiving items from March 11 to 14 & 16th only! We reserve the right to accept or refuse items. ***NO HOUSEHOLD or VEHICLES!!*** **Starting Inside at 9:00am & both Outside Rings at 9:30am! TERMS:** Cash sale day, cheques with ID only. Lunch booth. **Sales Yard- 519-509-2828**, Loader available from sale day until Mar.21st **"NO FEED SALE that day!"**Owners, Auctioneers, Organizers not responsible for accidents, injury, deletions or loss of property sale day. All verbal announcements take precedence over written material.

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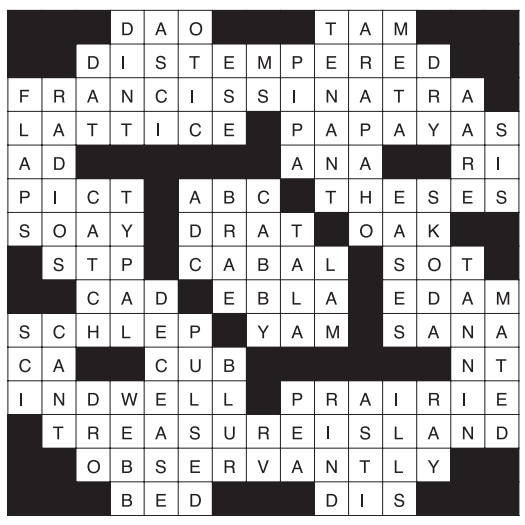
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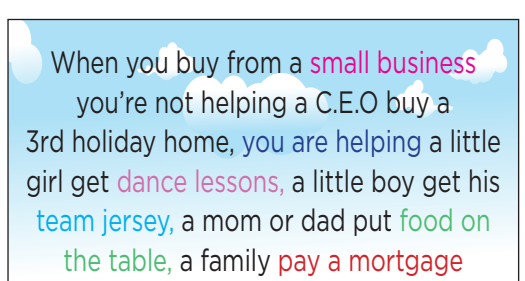
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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!

Over 3,000 PDSB students take part in annual Peel Skills Challenge

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



Palgrave Public School students Luciano, Alessandro, Nicholas and Glen take a break from working on their LEGO robot.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

The Peel District School Board (PDSB) held their annual Peel Skills Challenge from March 10 – 11, bringing more than 3,000 students from across the school board to the Davis Campus of Sheridan College for two days of hands-on learning.

The Peel Skills Challenge is an event for students in Grades 4 – 12 from the school board to obtain experiential, hands-on learning opportunities, and this year included activities such as 3D animation, construction, design innovation, green energy, robotics, LEGO mechanics, technology challenges, TV and video production, and workplace safety.

Students were given chances to design, build, code and compete in hands-on challenges exploring skilled trades and technology, and future career pathways.

They took part in 10 competitions daily, with an award ceremony closing out the two-day event.

The Peel Skills Challenge also acts as the Board's qualifying event for the Ontario Skills Competition, a skilled trades and technology competition, held annually to showcase students from elementary to post-secondary levels.

Romessa Butt, Resource teacher and Experiential Learning Coordinator with PDSB, said the Peel Skills Challenge has now been running for more than 20 years. Over the years, she's been able to watch it grow from just a few schools to hosting it at the Magna Skilled Trades Centre in Sheridan College to accommodate the thousands of students now taking part each year.

"It's great because the kids go back to their schools and they showcase what they've done, and it becomes this culture of creating together," said Butt, adding that medal winners walk away with a strong sense of pride from the day's competitions.

She added that the students have always expressed how much they love the day, being able to work with one another, and the creative process.

"It's not just a classroom, and we're showing them that they're able to be in a skilled trades facility, and Magna is known for skilled trades and around the world, it's a really great opportunity for students," she said

At PDSB, she said they work to create these opportunities for hands-on learning.

"We work with other departments as well and outside partnerships to see what aligns with the curriculum and give our students those experiences," said Butt. "Other than just having memorization, now it's more of the hands-on and building as well."

Grade 6 students from Alloa Public School in Caledon, Mantaz and Harmannat, were taking part in the 3D Design course, something brand new to the Peel Skills Challenge this year.

This was both of their first time coming to the event, and despite both being a little nervous, they were excited to dive in.

"It's more fun than just being in your class, learning about everything. It's more fun to actually get out and do design stuff," said Mantaz.

"And you can learn new things, like 3D design and other things," added Harmannat.

Mantaz said hands-on-learning brings a new level to their education.

"I feel like it's way easier. Because if someone says, in math, let's say this is the equation, but they didn't put it in front of you, how would you understand that? But if it's in front of you, you can understand it in your own way," he explained.

They both had their eyes set on the award ceremony at the end, hoping to see their team win.

Over in the LEGO robotics section was Palgrave Public School, where they were working on designing their own LEGO robot.

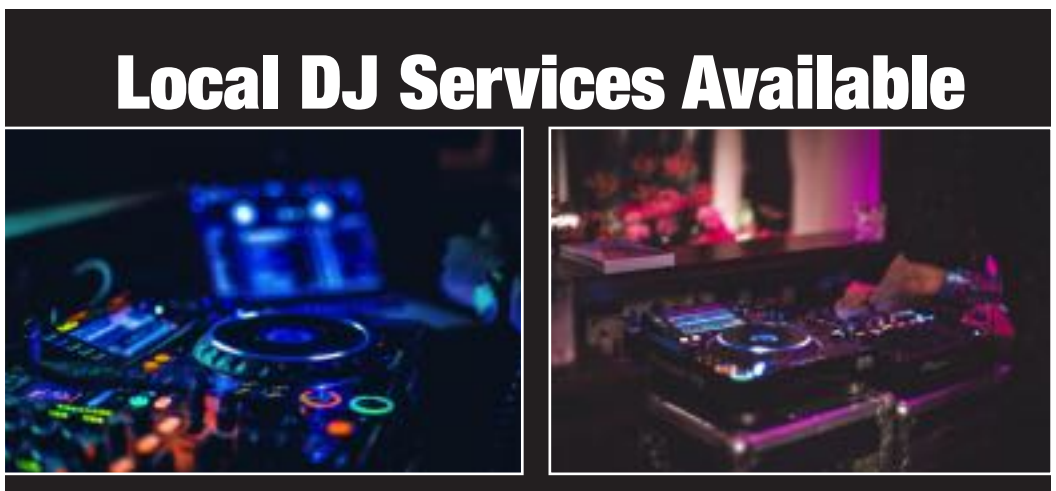
Grade 6 students Luciano, Alessandro, Nicholas and Glen were all working together on their robot.

They added that the day was "more fun" than being in a classroom, and gave them the chance to do the activities with their friends.

Students filled every room of the Magna Skilled Trades Centre in Sheridan College, each learning and working on brand new skills.

For PDSB, they hope that the Peel Skills Challenge helps spark early interest in trades, STEM and technology careers while giving students the opportunity to explore their strengths in a dynamic, hands-on environment.







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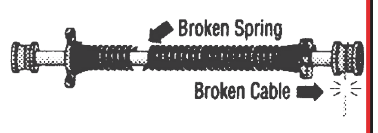
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Recent Election Sign By-Law open house draws future campaigners

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

An open house was held recently for the public to discuss the proposed changes to Caledon's Election Sign Bylaw with Town Staff, but it appeared to draw more than just those looking to see the proposals.

Current Councillors and residents attended the meeting to learn more about the election sign by-law as it may relate to their potential run in the upcoming election.

One of those was resident Kate Hepworth.

Hepworth ran in the previous election for Ward 1 Councillor in 2022, and told The Citizen she plans to run in October's municipal election.

Although she says she won't be running a "high profile campaign" this year, she says she was interested to see the changes, as she lost quite a few signs in the previous election.

Keeping it green, she says she'll be using signs from the last election.

"I'm not fond of people coming to my front door to sell themselves on something," says Hepworth. "That's just my reality, I won't be out there a lot, you may not see a lot of signs but I'm still here."

"There's so much that's going on and doing things from one side of the table and I just need to be able to try from the other side of the table with like-minded people that want to see the changes and securing our green areas and things like that without getting down and dirty. We all know the issues in Ward 1, and I just want to try, I need to try."

Another resident at the open house was also a past candidate, Hunar Kahlon, who ran for Ward 2 Councillor, who says he is "seriously considering" running in the upcoming election.

He adds that sign bylaws vary from municipality to municipality, so he attended in hopes of learning what changes may be coming to Caledon's.

At the open house, he echoed many of the concerns raised during the March 3 General Committee meeting, saying that three signs would have been "abused," and that he hoped Council would reconsider and not go ahead with the proposed change.

If he does decide to run in the upcoming election, he says many of the issues that appeared when he ran in 2022 "are still here."

"They've only amplified, or the new ones popped up. I wouldn't say that nothing changed for good, but there's a lot of work that needs to be done. There's a ton of work for the Council coming in," says Kahlon, adding that there needs to be a way to encourage more voter turnout in this year's election.

One of the first Councillors at the event was Councillor Doug Maskell, who told The Citizen that when it comes to the upcoming election, he is "considering all of his options… as many residents in wards 1, 2, and 3 have encouraged me to be a candidate for the position of Regional Councillor."

Bringing him to the open house was a chance to review the proposed changes and discuss some of his concerns with staff and residents.

Joking that in the last election he lost eight pounds from all the door knocking, he aims to beat that number this year.

Councillor Mario Russo told the Citizen he is planning on running in the upcoming election.

He attended the open house in hopes of hearing feedback from residents on any public expectations for changes, and also hear staff's recommendations prior to the committee meeting.

Regarding the upcoming election, he says previously he enjoyed going door to door and hearing from residents, "nothing changes or replaces going door-to-door because everyone's got a different perspective, so I look forward to that. I look forward to meeting more of the residents and look forward to some good dialogue, and it's an educational piece even for ourselves, so we never stop learning."

Councillor Christina Early told The Citizen she is also planning to run in the upcoming election and is looking forward to it, but what truly brought her to the open house were the environmental impacts, which she later discussed at Council.

"We've seen sign pollution, especially in some of the upper levels of government. When you run provincially or you run federally, they really have access to a lot of ditches and road corners, and it's not a pretty sight. I think we had it pretty much in control in the past. I'd like to see it stay the same," says Early at the open house.

Councillor Dave Sheen also attended the open house, and told the Citizen that attending the open house "was about doing my homework as a Councillor, not signalling a campaign decision. But I will say that representing my neighbours on Council has been an honour and a privilege that I do not take lightly, and I have yet to make a firm decision about running again."

He had also voiced his concerns, which he later brought up in Council, about the impacts the proposed changes would have.

"One sign per candidate on a typical suburban lot is more than enough to show support. Going from one to three signs for the same candidate on the same small property doesn't really send a stronger democratic message; it just adds to the clutter," Sheen says.

"Modern election signs are expensive and, in my experience, made from non-biodegradable plastics, so I'm not convinced that producing more signs for elections lines up with our community's environmental values either."

Family launches GoFundMe to return remains of son following fatal car crash

BY JOSHUA DRAKES

A fundraising campaign is nearing its goal after a fatal crash in the Township of Melancthon claimed the life of a 24-year-old international student.

The online appeal, titled "In Loving Memory of Udampreet Singh," was launched by his cousin, Amanjot Singh, following his death on February 26 at St. Michael's Hospital. Singh had been hospitalized after a motor vehicle collision the previous evening.

As of press time, the fundraiser had raised just over $38,000 toward its $40,000 goal in five days.

Udampreet Singh came to Canada on a study permit with plans to eventually bring his parents to join him from India once he had established himself in the country. His family sacrificed much of what they had to get him to Canada to study.

Originally from Yamunanagar in Haryana, he is survived by his mother, father and younger sister, who remain in India. His family is now working to have his remains returned to India so his parents can perform his final rites according to their traditions, as well as allowing his family to say a proper goodbye.

Arrangements are being made through the Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre.

The collision is under investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

In a separate statement, the Dufferin Detachment of the OPP said officers responded alongside Dufferin County EMS and local fire services to a two-vehicle crash on February 25 at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Emergency crews were dispatched to County Road 124, just north of 20 Sideroad, for a serious collision.

Police said a 24-year-old man from Brampton was transported to a Toronto-area hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased. The investigation remains ongoing.

The OPP is asking anyone with information or dashcam footage of the incident to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or to provide information anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

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