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ATHLETIC MILESTONE – Brampton North-Caledon MP Ruby Sahota and Canada's Secretary of State (Sport) Adam van Koeverden were joined in Bolton last week by Council members, community leaders, and future athletes as the Federal government announced $11 million in funding for the Bolton High Performance Athletics Centre. For more on what was described as a "historic day for Canadian athletics," see Page A3.
PHOTO COURTESY OF BOLTON ATHLETICS

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Residents learn more about ARGO Transit pilot at first community open house

New service launches September 15

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Caledon hosted its first public information session on September 1 about the new Caledon Argo Transit Pilot Program that is soon coming to the community.

This partnership between the Town and Argo Transit will help to provide on-demand ride service in select communities.

The pilot program will start on September 14. It is expected to last about 15 months and it will give riders access to pre-book trips or request rides in real time through a mobile app or over the phone.

Participants will also have the opportunity to schedule to use the service in advance or attempt to gain access on demand; however, with on demand use there may be a bit of a wait.

Areas included in this pilot are Bolton, Caledon East and Mayfield West/Southfields. The service will also connect to Brampton Transit, York Region Transit and GO Transit.

Residents will have the opportunity to register for an account through a portal starting on September 15, but it may take up to 72 hours before the account becomes fully activated.

The buses can hold up to about 18 people and is accessible for all to use.

They will run from 5.30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, and then from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Continued on Page B3

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DESIGNING THE 413 – Ontario Minister of Transportation Prabmeet Sarkaria was joined in Caledon by Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, Mayor Annette Groves, and more as the Province announced the next steps in constructing Highway 413. For more, see Page A9. KATHRYN FRASER PHOTO

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Peel's Black Health and Social Services Hub opens to the public

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On August 28, Peel's Black Health and Social Services Hub hosted their Grand Opening.

The event included a Kids Zone with face painting, games, a bouncy castle and ice cream truck, free health care on-site screenings, and a tour of the Hub.

Attendees of the celebration also had the ability to meet many of the practitioners that work at the Hub and learn more about the programs they offer.

This opening marked a significant milestone and will be able to help many members in the community while providing support in a variety of areas, including mental health, social services, physiotherapy and many more.

"Today is more than a ribbon-cutting, it's a celebration of what's possible when a community's needs shape the solution, not the other way around. For too long, Black residents in Peel have had to navigate a system that wasn't built with them in mind," says the Hub's Director of Integrated Operations Hope Ramsay. "This Hub changes that. Every service here, from primary care to mental health support and social services, was designed by and for our community, so people can walk through our doors and see themselves reflected in the care they receive. We can't wait to celebrate this moment with the community that made it possible."

The area was filled with many members of the community who were left in awe of the Hub and all of the services that were offered.

Peel Emergency Services were also there to show the support and check out the space.

The Hub includes a variety of rooms available to those using the services – from activity rooms to family exam rooms to multifaith rooms there is something for all members looking to be part of the Hub.

As the Hub is spread over one floor, the area is easily accessible to all.



Pictured above is one of the many examination rooms within the Hub.

KATHRYN FRASER PHOTO

Some of the highlighted programs within the Black Health and Social Services Hub include diabetes education, prenatal care, cancer screening, chronic disease management, gynaecological care, addiction support, trauma counselling, assertive community treatment (ACT), early psychosis intervention (EPI), caregiver support sessions, Moms2Be Loved, a program to provide pregnant and expecting mothers with a safe and welcoming space, and much more.

For more information about Peel's Black Health & Social Services Hub, visit bhsshubpeel.ca.

Realtor Rocky Punia set for fourth annual barbecue fundraiser

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Rocky Punia, also known as Rocky da Realtor, is back and hosting his 4th Annual BBQ Fundraiser on September 19.

The event will take place at Dennison Park from 2 – 7.30 p.m., where it has been hosted since its inception.

Punia and his wife, Neetu Singh, first came up with the idea after their family moved to Caledon in 2020 and they wanted to do something to get more involved in the community.

From starting with only a few members the first year to having close to a thousand attendees last year, Punia says he has seen how the community support around this event has truly grown.

All funds from the event will be donated to Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto.

Punia feels grateful to have the support of residents and to be able to get to connect with members of the community.

One group that Punia feels especially grateful for is their church, Kennedy Road Tabernacle as they play a large part in supporting the barbecue.

Many volunteers from both the church, Southfields and other communities have helped over the years and are part of the large success that the barbecue has become.

"This event wouldn't be possible without volunteers who are instrumental to the success of the event. We've got 30 volunteers from our church alone, Kennedy Road Tabernacle. They go to the barbeque, the barbeque is all taken care of, and then we got family and friends that have [contributed] their time to be a volunteer," says Punia. "We also got members of the Southfields community, who have volunteered to be a part of this event. It's been massive with all the volunteers."

From prizes, DJs, games, a kid's zone, live entertainment to free food and drinks, there is something for everyone at the event and all are invited to attend.

Following the barbecue, the Town of Caledon will host Movies in the Park starting at 8 p.m. They will be showing Zootopia 2 for all those interested in staying.

Looking towards the event, Punia says he is hopeful that members of the community will come out to not only support those in need but to also have fun and enjoy themselves.

"I think the biggest thing is when everybody comes together, when people say it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a whole community, a whole city, to help those in need. So, we come together, as one human race, and we just put our resources together, we can make a positive impact in this in this world and community", says Punia.

Punia and Singh hope that the barbecue will continue for many more years to come, will continue to create more partnerships, and they will be guided by faith in their work.

"None of this would be possible without God. With God all things are possible. So, if God wants us to continue doing this, which, we've continued putting in work, you can put this effort, into making this happen, and bringing the right community members, and the right partners, to be a part of this initiative, then this will definitely continue for as long as we can," says Punia.





CPL, Chamber, Metamorphosis Network team up to host all-candidates meetings

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Public Library is partnering with Caledon Chamber of Commerce and the Metamorphosis Network to host all-candidate meetings for the upcoming 2026 municipal election.

Residents of Caledon will be able to attend these meetings and get a chance to hear from the candidates who are running for office prior to the October 26 municipal election.

Each meeting will be held in a different Library branch and will be separated into three different sessions with three different groups of candidates.

The goal of the meetings is for community members to learn more about the candidates and their perspectives on local issues.

Sean Meagher, Coordinator of the Metamorphosis Network, will serve as moderator for all the meetings.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to submit questions for candidates to answer by going to the Inform Your Vote portal on the Caledon Library website.

Those interested in submitting questions must do so before September 20 so all submissions can be sorted and selected before the first meeting on September 24.

By having the questions be submitted by the residents in the areas affected, it gives voters the opportunity to make informed choices based on how the candidates answer the questions provided.

"With Caledon growing so quickly, services are struggling to keep up," says CEO of Caledon Community Services and Co-Chair of the Metamorphosis Network, Geraldine Aguiar. "Our municipal leaders play a critical role in addressing that challenge and this forum opens up opportunities for the community to see how their leaders would tackle this issue and so many others."

Below are the following meeting dates, locations and information about which candidates will be at each meeting.

• Mayoral Candidates – Thursday, September 24, 7 p.m. at the Caledon East Community Centre Banquet Hall, 6215 Old Church Road in Caledon East;
• Local & Regional Candidates – Wards 4, 5 & 6 – Thursday, October 1, 7 p.m. at Caledon Public Library's Albion Bolton Branch, 150 Queen Street South in Bolton;
• Local & Regional Candidates – Wards 1, 2 & 3 – Monday, October 5, 7 p.m. at Caledon Public Library's Margaret Dunn Valleywood Branch and Collaboration Studio, 20 Snelcrest Drive in Caledon

"The Caledon Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with Caledon Public Library and the Metamorphosis Network to create meaningful opportunities for residents to hear directly from the people seeking to represent them", says Board Chair of the Caledon Chamber of Commerce Hazel Piacentini. "These conversations are an important part of helping voters make confident decisions at the ballot box."

In addition to these meetings, the Caledon Public Library has also created a non-partied online hub to give voters reliable information about the election and includes areas such as how to vote, ward boundaries, candidate questionnaires, and many more tools to help voters.

"An informed community is a stronger community", says CEO and Chief Librarian of Caledon Public Library Colleen Lipp. "By partnering to host these all-candidates meetings and providing trusted election resources through our Inform Your Vote portal, we're helping residents engage with confidence, asking meaningful questions, and make informed decisions about Caledon's future."

To find out more information about these meetings and about the candidates running for the election visit the Inform Your Vote Portal at caledon.library.on.ca/elections.

Federal Government invests $11 million in Bolton High Performance Centre

BY BROCK WEIR

The Bolton High Performance Athletics Centre got a significant boost last week when the Federal Government announced $11 million in funding.

The Centre received the funds through the Government's Build Communities Strong Fund. Bolton Athletics is contributing $6 million to the build.

The funding was announced by Adam van Koeverden, Canada's Secretary of State for Sport, alongside Brampton North-Caledon MP – and Secretary of State for Combatting Crime – Ruby Sahota.

Once complete, the facility will include a new athletics training hub, a competition space, support spaces ranging from a weight room to change rooms, classrooms, and equipment storage. The goal is to advance performance, participation, and hosting.

"Sport has the power to shape lives and connect people in ways that very few things can," said Van Koeverden. "The Bolton High Performance Athletics Centre will create more opportunities for Canadians to play, train, and proudly wear the maple leaf on the world stage. By investing in this project, the Government of Canada is strengthening athlete performance, expanding access to sport and creating more local hosting opportunities. We're building Canada Strong, from playground to podium."

Added Sahota: "The Build Communities Strong Fund is building the infrastructure that Canadians rely on every day. Today's investment will help build the foundation our athletes need to reach their full potential. This world class facility will bring expert coaching, sports science all under one roof, will reduce barriers to participation and sustain long-term regional sport."

Athletics Canada Chief Executive Director Mathieu Gentes also hailed the investment, highlighting the value sport brings to both the local and national level.

"On behalf of Athletics Canada, I want to thank the Government of Canada for its significant investment in the Bolton High Performance Athletics Centre through the Build Communities Strong Fund," he said. "Quality and access to facilities are cornerstones of the continued growth and success of sport in Canada.

"Athletics is truly a foundational sport, from playground to the podium, developing the fundamental skills that underpin so many other sports. Investments in facilities like this create a lasting legacy, providing community participants, local track and field clubs, developing athletes and Canada's high-performance athletes with the environments they need to participate, train and pursue excellence. This investment will strengthen athletics in the region and across the country for generations to come."

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PUT SAFETY FIRST THIS BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON

As students across Ontario return to the classroom, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding motorists to slow down, stay alert and exercise extra caution as school zones become busier and traffic increases during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. While some school districts have already resumed classes, many others will welcome students back on September 8, resulting in increased traffic volumes near schools, school bus stops, and pedestrian crossings.

One of the most important responsibilities drivers share is ensuring the safety of children boarding and exiting school buses. When approaching a school bus displaying flashing amber lights, motorists should be prepared to stop. Amber lights indicate the bus is preparing to load or unload passengers and will soon activate its red overhead warning lights.

Once a school bus has stopped and its red overhead warning lights are flashing, drivers must stop, as required by law, and remain stopped until the red lights are no longer flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn. On roads without a physical median, traffic travelling in both directions must stop. On roads separated by a physical median, only vehicles travelling behind the bus are required to stop.

Pedestrians also play an important role in road safety. Students and parents are encouraged to use designated crosswalks and intersections whenever possible. Before crossing the road, look left, right, and left again, make eye contact with drivers, and ensure vehicles have stopped before stepping into the roadway. Where crossing guards are present, always follow their instructions.

Whether travelling by vehicle, bicycle, school bus, or on foot, everyone has a responsibility to help keep children safe.

Back-to-School Safety Tips:

- Slow down and obey posted speed limits, especially in school and community safety zones;
- Eliminate distractions and focus on the road at all times;
- Watch for children who may unexpectedly enter the roadway;
- Be prepared for increased traffic during school arrival and dismissal times;
- Never pass a stopped school bus displaying red overhead warning lights;
- Use designated crosswalks and intersections when crossing the road;
- Follow the directions of crossing guards and school safety personnel.

STOLEN CASH, TOOLS, DRUGS RECOVERED

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have recovered thousands of dollars worth of stolen property, including copper wire and power tools, as well as cash, methamphetamine, and a Dodge Ram truck, in connection with an ongoing investigation.

"On August 23, 2026, at approximately 3:15 a.m., members of the Dufferin OPP B Platoon received a suspicious vehicle complaint and subsequently conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle behind a large retail outlet in Orangeville," say Police. "During the interaction, officers observed a controlled substance in plain view, and the two occupants were arrested.

"The investigation continued, and officers located a large quantity of suspected stolen tools and copper wire throughout the vehicle. The vehicle was subsequently sealed and towed."

On August 28, 2026, members of the Dufferin OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) executed a search warrant on the vehicle.

As a result of the search, officers located additional evidence linking the stolen property to a break and enter that occurred in York Region between August 22 and 23, shortly before Dufferin OPP officers located the vehicle.

As a result of the investigation, Chance Peyton, 29, of Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Possession of Break-In Instruments;
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance – Methamphetamine;
- Possession of Proceeds of Property Obtained by Crime Over $5,000 - in Canada;
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over $5,000 - in Canada

The charges have not been proven.

Colton Arch-Michaud, 29, of Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Possession of Break-In Instruments;
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance – Methamphetamine;
- Possession of Proceeds of Property Obtained by Crime Over $5,000 - in Canada;
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over $5,000 - in Canada

The charges have not been proven.



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Continuing the Fight Against Illegal land / Illegal Trucking



Illegal truck yards have been a longstanding concern in Caledon, particularly in our rural communities. Residents have been clear about the impact these operations can have on their neighbourhoods, our roads, agricultural lands and overall quality of life. As Mayor, I have been equally clear that municipalities need stronger tools to address them.

This year, we saw important progress.

In May, Minister Rob Flack came to Caledon to announce Bill 119, Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026. The proposed legislation would provide municipalities like Caledon with additional powers to address illegal land uses, including the ability to change zoning requirements and issue direct financial penalties through the Town's (AMPS) Administrative Monetary Penalty System.

At the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference, members of Council and I continued that advocacy directly with the province. We met with several ministries, including Municipal Affairs and Housing, Transportation and Infrastructure, to reinforce the importance of moving this legislation forward.

Bill 119 is currently before the Provincial Standing Committee on Justice Policy, with the legislation scheduled for debate on October 5. We have asked the province to expedite the legislation once they reconvene on October 27.

Caledon cannot solve the issue of illegal truck yards alone. We need strong enforcement locally, but we also need legislation that gives municipalities the authority and tools necessary to take meaningful action.

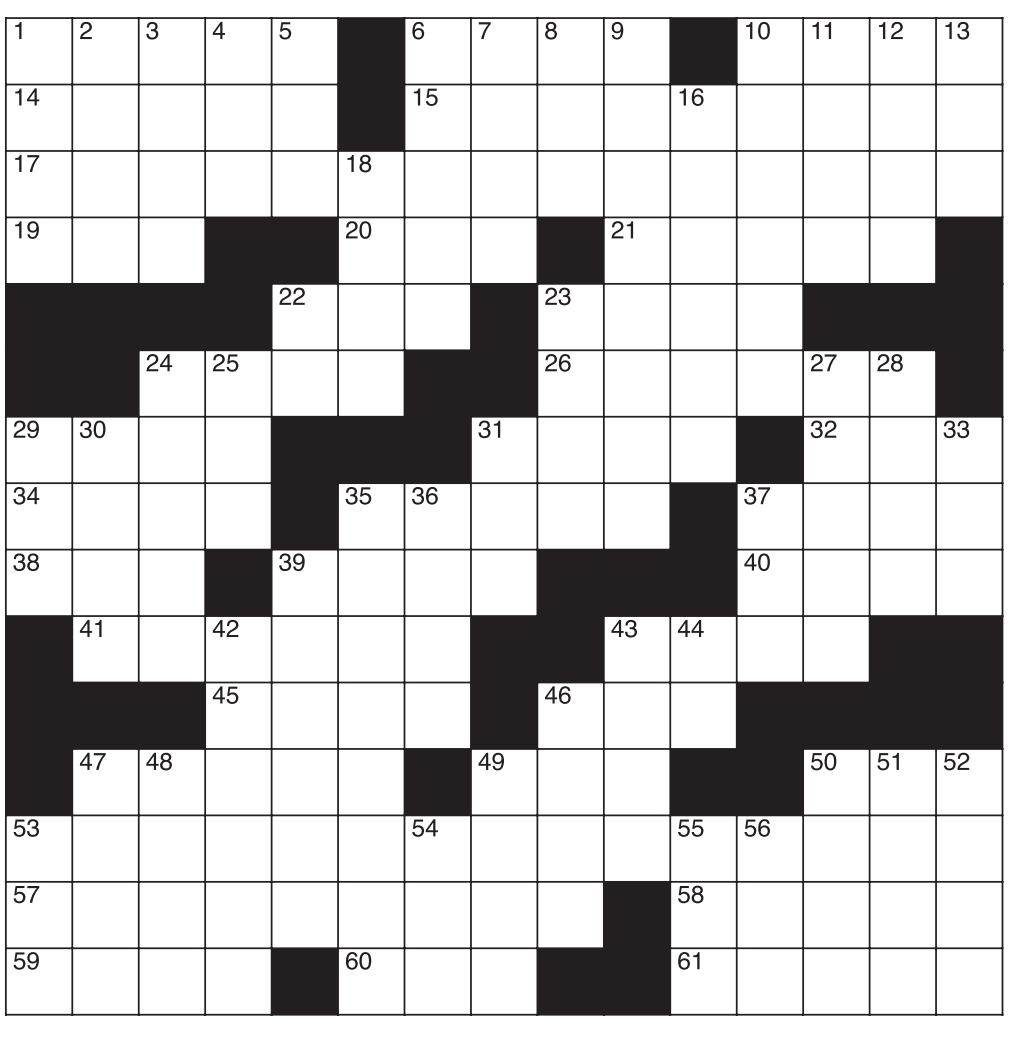
The introduction of Bill 119 demonstrates what can happen when municipalities and the province work together. We will continue advocating the proposed legislation to become law and for every tool to be available to protect Caledon's residents, communities and rural lands.

Our residents have waited long enough for meaningful action, and we will continue pushing until we have the tools needed to deliver it.

The Citizen CROSSWORD

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Solution in the classifieds.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Manila hemp plant
6. Turkish river
10. Something to read
14. In a way, initiated
15. Popular Apple TV series
17. King Charles is part of it
19. Earlier
20. Foot (Latin)
21. Zodiac sign
22. A browning of the skin
23. Remain as is
24. Turfs
26. It's used to slaughter animals
29. Volcanic crater
31. The mother of Jesus
32. One's life story
34. One-time Liverpool coach Slot
35. Counterparts
37. Jacob __, American journalist
38. Digital audiotape
39. River in South Africa
40. Kimono sashes
41. Rooting somewhere
43. American spy Aldrich
45. A way to call for
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal from a union
58. Performs spoken improv
59. Greek war god
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Helps to evade capture

CLUES DOWN

1. Swedish rock group
2. "Friday Night Lights" director Peter
3. Currency exchange fee
4. Feline
5. Folk singer DiFranco
6. Ghastly pale from distress
7. Rapid eye movements
8. Monetary unit of Macao
9. Lawmakers
10. Colorless mineral
11. At some prior time
12. American protest singer
13. Opener
16. Seldom
18. Relaxing places
22. Touchdown
23. From end to end
24. Kids love him
25. Metal-bearing solid
27. Skin care product manufacturer
28. Thirteen
29. Angry
30. Member of a Semitic people
31. One-thousandth of an inch
33. Former CIA
35. Most lemony
36. Engage in
37. Mass of fish eggs
39. Food supplies
42. Backbones
43. American real estate investment firm
44. Megabyte
46. "Three Coins in the Fountain" songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Full-grown pike fish
49. Emergency prep expert Edwards
50. Flute
51. Dismissive sound
52. Slang term for marijuana
53. Young women's association
54. Cosmopolitan city
55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand
56. Pointed end of a pen

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

Automotive Maintenance hosts new bottle drive initiative in partnership with Bethell Hospice

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new fundraising bottle return initiative by Automotive Maintenance in partnership with Bethell Hospice is in full gear.

The initiative will collect empty bottles and return them in support of Bethell Hospice.

Those looking to donate can drop off empty liquor, wine, and beer bottles or cans to the Caledon East Bottle Return Depot located at 16040 Airport Road in Caledon East.

After dropping off the bottles, let the staff know that you would like the refund donated to Bethell Hospice Foundation and your return will be matched by Automotive Maintenance.

This is the first time that Automotive Maintenance and Bethell Hospice have worked specifically on an initiative like this; however, Automotive Maintenance has been a long-time supporter of Bethell Hospice for many years.

The inspiration behind this initiative came from Automotive Maintenance owner John Tomasone's personal experience when his mother spent time in Bethell Hospice.

After seeing firsthand the care and compassion that Bethell Hospice provided for his mother, it left a long-lasting impression on him and underscored how important programs and services like these were to families that were going through difficult times.

"We wanted to find a meaningful way to give back and support an organization that provides the same level of care to people in our community", says Automotive Maintenance Bottle Supervisor Alessandra Tomasone.

All proceeds raised will go towards the Bethell Hospice Foundation and will be dedicated to care and programs in the facility.

"The donations help Bethell Hospice continue providing the important services and care that patients and their families rely on. The funds can support patient care, supplies, community outreach, and other areas where they are needed most," says Tomasone. "We are grateful that our contributions can help Bethell Hospice continue the incredible work they do for local families."

Since the drive was launched, Tomasone and the rest of the Automotive Maintenance team have seen the impact it has had and the number of members in the community that have donated towards this cause.

"It means a great deal to us. It is incredibly rewarding to see people come together to support something that is bigger than themselves," says Tomasone. "It really shows the strength of a community when everyone contributes in whatever way they can. Even a small donation can make a meaningful difference when we all work together."

However, it's not just donating that people out in the Caledon Community can do to help.

"There are many ways people can help. One simple way is by donating their empty bottles and cans through the initiative," says Tomasone. "Every donation, no matter how small, adds up and can make a difference, John also matches the donations every month. People can also reach out directly to Bethell Hospice to learn about other ways they can volunteer, donate, or support the organization."

Those looking for more information and updates about this initiative can follow Automotive Maintenance at @caledonbottledepot and can also visit the Bethell Hospice website at bethellhospice.org.

Public Notice — Peel Region

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO EXPROPRIATE LAND

Form 2

Expropriations Act, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 363

IN THE MATTER OF an application by The Regional Municipality of Peel for approval to expropriate the lands, as set out in Schedule "A" herein, in the Town of Caledon, in the Regional Municipality of Peel being:

Temporary Construction Easement: Temporary Limited Interests for the purpose of a free, exclusive, uninterrupted and unobstructed temporary easement in gross or rights in the nature of a temporary easement in gross, for the purposes of entering upon, occupying, passing, repassing over, and re-entering the easement lands by The Regional Municipality of Peel including its servants, agents, employees, contractors, sub-contractors, and workers with all necessary vehicles, machinery, tools, supplies, material and equipment required to facilitate the installation of a 600mm watermain on Hurontario Street from Dougall Avenue to Hutchinson Farm Lane, grading and other works ancillary thereto **("Temporary Construction Easement")**, for a term of two (2) years commencing the earlier of (i) no less than three (3) months' written notice to the registered owner, or (ii) on the third anniversary of the date of registration of the plan of expropriation (the **"Commencement Date")** and expiring no later than five (5) years after the date of the registration of the plan of expropriation **("Temporary Construction Easement")**.

For the municipal purpose of facilitating the installation of a 600mm watermain on Hurontario Street from Dougall Avenue to Hutchinson Farm Lane in the Town of Caledon together with works ancillary thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made for approval to expropriate the interests herein described in the lands described in Schedule "A".

Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given who desires a hearing into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing,

(a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail within thirty (30) days after the registered owner is served with the notice, or, when the registered owner is served by publication, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice;

(b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is:
The Council of The
Regional Municipality of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive
Brampton, Ontario L6T 4B9

Name of expropriating authority:
The Regional Municipality of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive
Brampton, Ontario L6T 4B9

The Regional Municipality of Peel
Dina Lundy, Deputy Clerk

THIS NOTICE FIRST PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 27, 2026.

SCHEDULE "A"

Those lands in the Town of Caledon, in the Regional Municipality of Peel described as follows:

1. Temporary Construction Easement
   Part of PIN 14252-0955 (LT)
   Part of Lot 21, Concession 1, West of Hurontario Street (Geographic Township of Chinguacousy), Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-42246

2. Temporary Construction Easement
   Part of PIN 14252-0113 (LT)
   Part of Lot 21, Concession 1, West of Hurontario Street (Geographic Township of Chinguacousy), Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 43R-42245



BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Stepping forward with Dolly

I didn't know what to expect when I was called to Newmarket's Margaret Bahen Hospice three years ago last month.

The call didn't come from a family member or immediate loved one, but rather on behalf of a man I considered a friend.

Gordon Barnes was a very active member of the Aurora community who found many ways to serve the community he loved, and give back to it as well, in ways large and small.

He and his wife Marie could often be found at the local farmers market on Saturday mornings where, hand-in-hand, and later, as time began getting the better of them, hand-on-walker, quietly distributing homemade barley sugar lollipops they made in antique molds salvaged from an earlier incarnation of Laura Secord.

They were each instrumental in furthering their creative interests and building vibrant communities around them, while Gordon created a lasting legacy locally by serving on committees ranging from environment to active transportation, all the while remaining an active voice on the topics from the sidelines when taking a term off from the committees.

Our professional paths crossed many times over the years, but this one was different.

Terminally ill, the Minnesota-born Barnes had one final message for the community he helped shape – the importance for people who are here today to ensure the citizens of tomorrow have the best possible start in life.

As it happened, one of the key ways people could do just that, he believed, was to join singer, actress, business tycoon, and all-around global icon Dolly Parton on her own mission to give kids the foundations they need to be all they can be.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a free book-gifting program on both sides of the United States-Canada border, "devoted to inspiring a love of reading in young children. Through the program, enrolled youngsters can receive a monthly high-quality, age-appropriate book in the mail, free of charge.

She expanded her eponymous Imagination Library into Canada in 2006.

Since its establishment on our side of the border 20 years ago this year, they have now distributed more than five million books across the country through scores of partners at the community level.

"Before he passed away, my Daddy told me the Imagination Library was probably the most important thing that I had ever done," said Parton at the time of its foundation in Canada. "I can't tell you how much that meant to me because I created the Imagination Library as a tribute to my Daddy. He was the smartest man I have ever known but I know in my heart his inability to read probably kept him from fulfilling all of his dreams.

"Inspiring kids to love to read became my mission. In the beginning, my hope was simply to inspire the children in my home country, but here we are today with a worldwide program that gives a book a month to well over three million children.

"Of course, I have not done this alone. The real heroes of our story are the thousands of local organizations who have embraced my dream and made it their own. They raise millions of dollars each year and wake up every day with a passion to make sure their kids have every opportunity to succeed.

"It's been quite a journey but we still have so much more left to do… Let's share this dream that all children should grow up in a home full of books. The first step is always the hardest, but you'll never know unless you try."

While the local organizations who are making all this possible are indeed heroes who are doing the heavy lifting, the message Parton shared through her Imagination Library is, I think we can all agree, a classic example of her trademark understatement – in everything but her classic look.

Since Parton's sudden passing on August 25 – and I say sudden as, despite how transparent she was about her illness in recent months, it seems almost unfathomable for such a bright, larger-than-life light to be extinguished – it is clear that just about everyone was touched or impacted by her in some way.

Countless people around the world were, of course, impacted by her beautiful voice and her storytelling songbook – to offer just one personal anecdote to illustrate this point, when I worked abroad in East Africa in 2007, the newsroom came to a halt every time a song from Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers (or both!) came on the radio to allow for an office-wide singalong.

Others gravitated less towards Dolly the singer, and more towards her output on film – 9 To 5, Steel Magnolias, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, and more – and television, as well as streaming. The bonus being that that voice followed her in whatever she tried her hand.

A friend of mine shared in the days following her death how, as a young boy who had moved to North America from Italy when he was little over 10, overwhelmed with the culture shock of being in a new school, with new people, immersed in an unfamiliar language, he found something of a safe harbour in the flashy lady he saw on TV.

Another friend, a trans woman, found acceptance in the person of Dolly Parton when, in her world, there was precious little acceptance to go around.

Another reminiscence that struck me was from a parent whose child was distraught by the news – not necessarily being a fan of Parton the entertainer, but rather simply in her role as "the lady who sent me books."

Dolly Parton, despite her self-deprecation, proved the old adage that not all superheroes wore capes. Above and beyond her boundless talent and international work for literacy, she supported countless charities in ways large, small, and unheralded; invested much of the money she made to support communities and marginalized populations in need; and perhaps most importantly and effortlessly served as a living, tangible representation of what simply what it means to be a good person.

It might sound simple on the surface, but in today's present world where so many of those individuals who have amassed great wealth are more inclined to use it to amass power, profile, and pursue even more treasure for their coffers, it is a potent reminder the difference each of us can make if motivated to do so.

Few of us have the resources at our fingertips to make as profound a difference on the world around us as Dolly Parton did, but, as her story so powerfully illustrates, no matter how humble our beginnings, and, for that matter, no matter how humble our presents, all it really takes is a good heart and taking that first step.

We would all do well to remember her belief of "the first step is always the hardest, but you'll never know unless you try," or even the advice she gave to listeners as radio psychologist Shirlee Kenyon in the 1992 film Straight Talk: "Sometimes you've got to just honk your horn. If you don't, nobody's gonna know you're coming."



Embracing things and people that make a difference

by Mark Pavilons



"Make a difference today for someone who's fighting for their tomorrow."
– Jim Kelly

We try to take care of ourselves and our own families.

But we always have an eye out for our fellow men and women – our brothers and sisters.

We support those left out in the cold, drowning. Even when resources are thin, we try to help.

I have read that the middle class is the largest group of "givers" in our society. The average folk, with often limited funds and time, step up and deliver, time and again.

That says a lot about our species.

I see us all as integral pieces to one gigantic Jenga puzzle. Remove just one of us, and the whole thing becomes shaky. From the top to the bottom, each piece is vital to the whole.

It's easy for us to get down, sad, depressed and overburdened. And it's never easy to push these things aside and move ahead with a bounce in our stride. Oh, but if we could be more like Tigger and less like Eeyore.

When we think about "making a difference," we often look to monumental achievements or accomplishments on a grand scale.

But in reality, making a difference often happens in quieter moments and smaller increments.

Making a difference can mean showing up for someone who needs support as they navigate losing a battle or a loved one. It can mean choosing patience or offering compassion to someone who's struggling. It might be the steady encouragement you give to a friend or coworker.

And let's not forget about taking care of yourself, so you can show up and meet the challenges of each day.

Experts say making a difference is more about "shifting" something, and not making huge changes.

It's about adding value — whether that's through a moment of comfort, a dose of hope, or a reminder that someone isn't alone. The possibilities are endless, and almost any choice we make, however small, can be an opportunity to contribute.

When I think of change-makers, I look to Mandela, Gandhi, Mother Teresa. But they weren't born with a super powers. They believed that change was possible and relentlessly stood up for what they believed in. Their words and actions are reminders to all of us.

Closer to the confines of our own homes, pet owners know very well the importance of these creatures in our lives. We have been dog people forever and can't picture our lives without one.

We have three – two young Malinois crosses and one senior Lab. They don't know about the universe or the big picture outside their small worlds. But they do know about love, loyalty and companionship. They know how to have fun and while running and playing tops their list, cuddling with their human comes close.

Do they make a difference in our lives? Hell ya!

My son, who's contemplating his next career move, wondered how he can make a difference.

I told him that just being there for others – his family and tight circle of friends – impacts others. We feed off one another's strengths and human qualities. We are shaped by the things others exude.

Even the smallest of gestures – opening the door for someone; saying thank you; stopping to offer help – can snowball. When others see goodness in action, they are more apt to repeat it.

"Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world," said Howard Zinn.

Just how do we make a difference?

Well, there are many ways and all you have to do is look around at your friends and neighbours in your community.

A great way to make a positive impact is by volunteering. Our community is known for its huge volunteer base, and the one-for-all attitude. It's been shown many times over the years and it's always an amazing thing to witness.

The beauty of it all is that volunteers don't see themselves as "heroes." They simply see a need, and help fill it.

One of the best qualities humans can show is altruism. Selfless sacrifices are the key to not only "paying it forward," but living with meaning. Again, our volunteers give on a regular basis and even up the ante in times of crisis or tragedy. It's what we do.

I would tell everyone to do what they love and to find their passion in life. That's much easier said than done. We all want the perfect job, the most amazing and inspiring career. Truth is, it's a 50/50 split these days. Many, and the number has grown over the past couple of years, no longer have that umph that makes them leap out of bed in the morning. Keep trying is all I can advise.

One thing we often neglect is sharing our own story. Our past – our life experiences – contains many nifty nuggets for others to digest. The best recipients are our family members and our children. It's important they know where their parents came from, what struggles they endured, and how they emerged triumphant.

Every single one of us has a story, a unique tale to tell. You are your own playwright, director and lead actor. When you share, others tend to be inclined to do the same.

I'm in the word game and I try to share my story with others on this page in the newspaper. Readers can take it or leave it. I don't make any false claims or promises.

But Brandon Sanderson, in his work Words of Radiance, said "Words are where most change begins."

I don't see myself as a harbinger of change, but I do help shed some light on subjects near and dear.

In the end, we all want the same thing, we frail humans. We want peace, and tranquility, and we want everyone to be compassionate, show love and work together.

Touch just one and the ripple in the pond keeps growing.



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SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



It's that time of year ...

I don't usually reprise columns. There may, on occasion, be similar themes, what with all the challenges facing Caledon right now, but a full reprint of a previous column would be unusual. That said, a partial thematic reprisal is a whole different story so here we go! I'll leave it to you dear reader, to distinguish the old from the new.

It's that time of year, both celebrated and dreaded, depending on your perspective. School starts late this year, many of you no doubt feeling you've had (or needed) this extra week in order to adequately prepare. For parents and caregivers, it's generally a great time of year while kids likely have mixed feelings about it. Both scenarios might be true for teachers! It's "back to school" time. No doubt this also means this coming weekend will be a busy one for many families whether it's moving your young adult to university, doing some back to school shopping with the little ones, or simply enjoying one of your last cottage or camping trips. While the theme is common, I'm also bringing back this "oldie, but goodie" because a certain paragraph or two really seemed to resonate with parents and generated a larger than normal amount of feedback. I'm pretty sure the sentiments are just as true this year as any other.

Let's start with what's different. Last year Swan Lake was on the agenda, this year it's a municipal election, and teacher bargaining. Don't panic! A strike isn't imminent but negotiations will (eventually) take place because contracts expired this past Tuesday, August 31. With one dispute about how the bargaining will take place already on the table, it remains to be seen whether Minister Calandra proceeds in good faith anytime soon.

Here's what is the same. Last year a protest was being organized by the CCRSA, giving residents a chance to actively participate (with others across the province) in expressing grave concerns about trucks, licensing, illegal trucking yards and the Driver's Inc "training" and business models. While this year there may not be a protest in the works, the issues are still front and centre and a petition is currently making the rounds in Caledon so it can be presented in the legislature when politicians finally go back to work in October.

Here's what else hasn't changed. For all the parents sending their littlest family member off to school for the first time, we wish you courage and strength to walk away from your little one, no doubt with a tear or two in your eye. You've nurtured and carried them through these first four years of life and now it's time to expose them to the world (and to germs!) You can do it. Kindergarten teachers are some of the most skilled professionals in education, gifted in helping children transition from home or daycare, to full time education – they've got this.

For all those starting high school, it's a whole different kind of angst and with the addition of social media I don't envy you or the parents and caregivers you rely on for support. There will be challenges, but high school is also often the time when you first meet the people who may well become your friends for life. It's a time you can begin to explore what kind of future you envision for yourself by taking courses that are of interest, not just part of the mandatory curriculum. You may even branch out by joining a club, an advocacy group, a sports team, or by learning a new skill or taking part in arts-based programming.

Next, for those parents who are sending young adults off to university … well … see the comments above about kindergarten. You've kept them safe, fed and clothed for the past 17 or 18 years and now it's time to trust that everything you've done has actually rubbed off on them and that they will remember how to stay safe, feed themselves and how to wash their own clothes! At least these days there are ways for you to easily stay in touch with your kids, unlike when I went off to a school almost three hours away with nothing but a shared access, rotary dial phone in the hallway of the dorm. Mind you - whether your child answers your frequent texts or repeated requests for a Facetime call is debatable. Like I said in reference to kindergarten, I wish you the courage and strength to walk away from your young adult, no doubt with a tear or two in your eye, just don't let them see it!

Finally, to all of this I will now add that sometimes, and not necessarily just in September, you might face an even harder "goodbye" as your "littles" are not only bigger, but fully-grown, capable adults themselves. Now, however, the same feelings of watching them leave are magnified by about a million as that now married "child" packs up a U-Haul and moves to another province to begin their next adventure. That same feeling exists too, even when you know they'll return, but your other "child" is currently wandering around the world on a self-funded, post-graduation trip and you're trying to balance the constant worry with the joy that they are truly experiencing life writ large. Yes, there's a tear or two in my eye, but mostly tears of joy.

I'll end with this, a blend of both the previous column I mentioned, and some new material.

Teachers, if you don't already know how much I love you, let me remind both you, and every parent out there who ever complained about teachers while lasting only three whole days teaching their own kids during the pandemic, you are an amazing group of humans. Every day you welcome far too many children into underfunded classrooms courtesy of Doug Ford. (On that note Mr. Ford, your $750 to be spent at the American owned company Staples, doesn't pass the "Captain Canada" sniff test.) Students come into the classroom with varying degrees of support required, and teachers, you do your best to ensure they are safe, secure, supported, and taught the basics, all while possibly having some fun too! Good luck this year and to all returning and new students - especially those marking milestones like kindergarten, middle school, high school or post-secondary education.

As for the rest of us, it's September. Help do your part to ensure all kids, teens and young adults get to and from school safely. Keep an eye out for the yellow school bus when it stops - they really aren't that hard to see – and for goodness' sake, remember it is against the law to pass them when the lights are flashing!

Our Readers Write

Why does it take a citizen group to make gravel mining safer?

Why are residents forced to hold the gravel goliaths accountable - shouldn't that be the job of our governments?

Every community that hosts aggregate extraction should pay attention to the recently posted

Ontario Land Tribunal decisions on the Nelson Aggregates quarry expansion at Mount Nemo in Burlington, and the Lobo gravel pit near Ball's Bridge on the banks of the Maitland River in Huron County.

Although the locations and circumstances are different, they reveal that every time a community gets deeply involved, applications receive greater scrutiny. Engaged resident groups identify more issues; more protections are put in place; better monitoring is established; site plans are improved and mitigation measures are added.

This poses a very uncomfortable question:

Why does it take a citizen group spending years and hundreds of thousands of dollars to improve a proposal for a gravel pit or quarry?

The Nelson Aggregates proposal at Mount Nemo is a powerful example.

The City of Burlington and citizens group CORE Burlington fought this application side by side.

Along with other parties and agencies, they both participated in an extraordinarily detailed process. A Joint Agency Review Team (JART) identified more than 600 unresolved issues across 13 technical areas, including air quality, private wells, natural heritage, traffic and rehabilitation.

Nonetheless, Nelson abandoned the JART process and appealed to the OLT in a hearing that involved dozens of witnesses and tens of thousands of pages of evidence. It is commendable that Burlington fought to protect their constituents, this is not the norm.

CORE reported raising hundreds of thousands in funds to pay for legal and expert costs. Think about that. While working hand in hand with the City of Burlington more than half a million dollars were raised by volunteers so the community could meaningfully participate at the OLT hearing.

Friends of Ball's Bridge and Little Lakes had to fight alone and raised funds for hydrogeology, ecology, cultural heritage, air quality, traffic, planning and legal expertise simply to ensure that their concerns could be properly presented to the Tribunal.

The Provincial Planning Statement is clear that aggregate extraction is an important provincial interest. But it is equally clear that extraction is supposed to be undertaken in a way that minimizes social, economic and environmental impacts. It also recognizes public health and safety and environmental protection as important planning interests.

If every time a citizen group gets involved, the proposal receives better scrutiny and additional measures are introduced to effectively minimize impacts, we should be asking ourselves why is that our responsibility? The Provincial Planning Statement requires impacts to be minimized, shouldn't our policies and approval processes be designed to make that happen without requiring citizens to fight for it?

The reality is the current approval system does a good job of protecting the interests of the Gravel Goliaths but a lackluster job at protecting public health, community safety and the environment.

Studies and research have shown that there is currently at least a 38 year licensed supply so there is plenty of time to pause new applications and expansions while we work to fix this and still comfortably meet demand.

Ontario needs to have a much bigger conversation about aggregate policy beginning with stronger policies at the municipal level and extending all the way to meaningful provincial policy reform.

You can start the conversation with this simple question to all of your Municipal candidates:

How will you ensure our municipal and provincial governments intervene to balance the need for aggregate extraction and protection of our communities' health, water, air and surrounding ands rather than relying solely on the efforts of volunteer residents? We can and need to do better.

Sign the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's petition for a moratorium on applications for new sites and expansions and meaningful policy reform www.reformgravelmining.com

JUDI SMELKO
PRESIDENT
SAUGEEN PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

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



PUBLIC NOTICE

Torbram Road Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Mayfield Road to Old School Road)



NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION CENTRE #1

Study: The Town of Caledon (Town) is carrying out a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) to evaluate options for the improvements to Torbram Road from Mayfield Road to Old School Road. The corridor is expected to experience significant increases in traffic volumes as a result of planned developments as well as broader regional growth and future transportation infrastructure such as Highway 413.

Process: The study is being carried out in accordance with the requirements of a Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (October 2000, as amended 2024), which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION CENTRE #1

Your input is a key component of this study. The first Public Consultation Centre (PCC) will be held on **Wednesday, September 23, 2026** to present information about the project, existing conditions, the need and justification for future improvements on Torbram Road and the recommended alternative solution to address future transportation needs along the corridor. The PCC will be held as a drop-in style open house, and members of the study team will be available to answer your questions.

Information materials will also be made available on the project webpage at: **haveyoursaycaledon.ca/torbramroadea** following the PCC. For future consultation opportunities and project updates, please refer to the study webpage.

DATE: **Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

LOCATION: Southfields Community Centre - 225 Dougall Avenue, Caledon

Contact Us! For further information, to submit comments on the study, or if you would like to be added to receive future notices for this study, please contact one of the study team members below:

For further information, to submit comments on the study, or if you would like to be placed on the project contact list to receive future notices for this study, please visit the study website at **www.haveyoursaycaledon.ca/torbramroadea** or contact one of the study team members below:

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Transportation Engineer
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Project and notice information will be made accessible upon request in accordance with the Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

Information provided in response to this notice will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will be part of the public record.

This notice first issued on September 3, 2026.

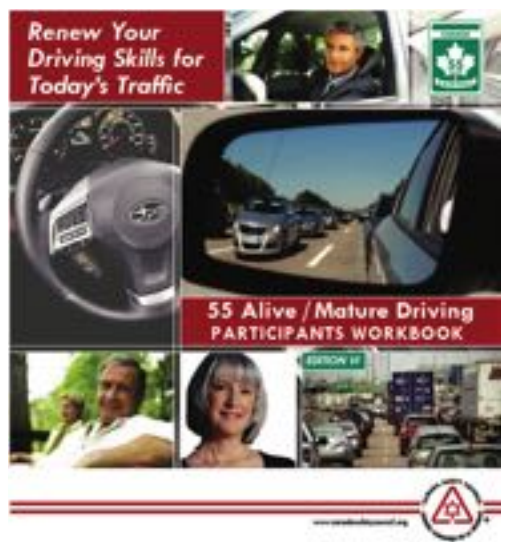
Final Property Taxes are Due

Property taxes are due **Thursday, September 3, 2026.**

Regular late payment fees apply.

For payment options visit: **caledon.ca/tax**.

Alive Driver Refresher Course



Stay confident behind the wheel with the 55 Alive Driver Refresher Course, offered by the Town in partnership with the Canada Safety Council.

Designed for adults aged 55 and older, this relaxed classroom course helps participants refresh their knowledge of current road rules, adapt to age-related driving changes, and maintain their independence.

Fee: $70.62 (includes material for the session)

FREE lunch provided.

Visit **caledon.ca/adult55** or call 311 for more information and to register.

TOWN OF CALEDON
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ARTS & CULTURE

Baskerville brings mystery, mayhem and laughter to Theatre Orangeville: A Review

BY JOSHUA DRAKES

Theatre Orangeville's production of Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery delivers a fun, fast-paced, clever and wonderfully chaotic theatrical experience that combines mystery, comedy and beautiful set design.

Based loosely on Arthur Conan Doyle's The Hound of the Baskervilles, the production follows Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson as they attempt to unravel the mysterious deaths surrounding the Baskerville family.

But this is far from a traditional Sherlock Holmes adaptation. The story moves at a breakneck pace, with humour, physical comedy, disguises, accents and unexpected characters constantly keeping the audience engaged.

One of the production's greatest strengths is its cast.

The actors display remarkable comic timing and an impressive ability to shift between characters at remarkable speed. With the ensemble taking on more than 40 roles, the sheer number of characters could easily become confusing, but instead it becomes one of the show's biggest sources of entertainment.

Despite being a Sherlock Holmes story, the real star of this production for me was Dr. Watson.

Watson quickly became my favourite character. More than once, Watson seemed very much aware of the absurdity of the situation and humorously said so, though it didn't do much good in the moment.

Seeing Watson take on the lead role of the story as the production continued was an unexpected joy, as the actress behind the character was clearly having a lot of fun, which made the production all the more enjoyable.

That's not to say the rest of the cast didn't do the same. Seeing Young Company put on such a well-planned, well-executed production was a pleasure.

For Young Company, the level of control and confidence was particularly impressive, and they handled a complicated and fast-paced production with commendable grace. They were fast to switch characters, and each character felt unique, different and one of a kind. I didn't ever feel I was watching one actor playing the same two or three characters. I believed they were different people and I could follow the transition on stage without any issue.

Watching an actor transform from one personality into another – often with a completely different voice, physicality or attitude - is a theatrical feat in itself. The performances are quick-witted, energetic and committed, with even the smallest moments often finding a laugh. Seeing it all done by a youth-centred theatre company only demonstrates the tireless practice that went into this production, because it showed on stage.

The stage design deserves particular praise as well.

The production makes excellent use of theatrical effects, sound, lighting, smoke and movement to create a sense that the entire world of the story is constantly shifting around the actors. There is something especially satisfying about watching the mechanics of theatre become part of the entertainment.

The Baskerville Manor was, in fact, a tiny model house on a hill for most of the play. When inside the building, actors physically held up windows for the cast to look through, which the audience accepted openly with laughter.

Despite how simple many designs were, they were used so effectively it didn't really matter to the audience. With three props on stage, you're in London. Another three, you're across the country, travelling to meet the Baskervilles.

Windows, candles and doors were all that was required to sell the illusion, and it worked. I could believe I was travelling from location to location, with only hand-held props moving across the stage. It was an excellent use of perspective and minimalism.

Then there is the humour. Baskerville never takes itself too seriously, and that is precisely its charm.

The jokes come quickly, the physical comedy is wonderfully exaggerated, and the production has a playful awareness of its own theatrical absurdity. Rather than simply telling a Sherlock Holmes story, it invites the audience to enjoy the process of watching one being created.

The big fear of the story is a mythical hound that supposedly picks off victims left and right. How did the cast respond? Sir Henry Baskerville wanted to grab his gun and set off to shoot it, cowboy hat in hand.

Those sudden breaks in tension helped carry the story forward with a lighter, more humorous tone that still conveyed the story's seriousness.

The areas for improvement are relatively minor. On some occasions, with music or sound effects, the voices of the cast are difficult to hear or understand. Lowering the volume of the music and sound effects would occasionally help the actors' dialogue come through more clearly.

Ultimately, Theatre Orangeville's Baskerville is a celebration of live theatre: inventive, energetic, funny and full of theatrical surprises.

With its stakes, tension, laughs and inventive theatricality, Baskerville is a perfect example of how dynamic Theatre Orangeville's Young Companies can be - and just how far a talented young ensemble can take a production.*nflightcentre.com*.

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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.*

Lunch & Learn – Thurs. September 3
The Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton is having a Lunch & Learn on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 11:00 am.
Topic: Cognitive Aging & Dementia Interactive Experience.
Presenter is Melanie Yeboah, Life Enrichment Coordinator at Amica Peel Village.
This session focuses on supporting individuals living with cognitive decline or a reduced ability to care for themselves. It provides practical strategies and tools for caregivers and family members to better support those in their care.
Pre-registration is required. A sandwich and dessert lunch will follow the presentation. Cost is $7.
Call the Centre at 905-951-6114 to register!

Sip and Paint Night
Friday, September 11th, Caledon Seniors Centre
You don't have to be creative to join us for our paint night, you just have to want to have fun.
Instructors will guide your creativity while you create a beautiful hibiscus painting.
All the supplies will be provided and your ticket includes a beverage of your choice.
Tickets are $35.00 for members or $38.50 for non members.
This is a fundraiser for the Caledon Seniors Centre so everyone is welcome, you don't have to be 55+
For more information please visit our website at www.caledonseniors.ca

Caledon Harvest High Tea - Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 2 to 5 pm
Join us for an elegant afternoon of tea, treats, community, and giving at the Caledon Seniors Centre at Rotary Place in Bolton, to support CAFFI Housing's initiative to provide accessible, supportive housing and a stronger future for people with disabilities in our community. Enjoy delicious refreshments and snacks, opportunities to win exciting prizes, and wonderful company, all while making a meaningful difference.
Tickets are $35/person (advance purchased required) and can be requested by contacting caffihousing@gmail.com or 905-857-5191. Come raise a cup of coffee or tea and help support a great cause!

Mom & Babes Yoga Fitness Starting on September 14, 2026 at 11 am – free program
See website for more information
Bolton United Church
8 Nancy Street, Bolton, L7E 1C7
Phone: 905-857-2615
e-mail: office@boltonunitedchurch.com
www.boltonunitedchurch.com

Tuesday September 15, 2026 at 6 pm
Free Bingo Night
Join us for Bingo, prizes, pizza, and fun!
Bolton United Church
8 Nancy Street, Bolton, L7E 1C7
Phone: 905-857-2615
e-mail office@boltonunitedchurch.com
www.boltonunitedchurch.com

Friday September 18, 2026
Messy Church from 5-7 pm
Any age from 2-18 years
Free Dinner for parents and youth
All denominations welcome
Bolton United Church
8 Nancy Street, Bolton, L7E 1C7
Phone:905-857-2615
e-mail: office@boltonunitedchurch.com
www.boltonunitedchurch.com

Community BBQ
Having Fun Never Gets Old…Everyone Welcome
Saturday September 19th 11 AM-2PM
Caledon Agricultural Society Fairgrounds HWY 10
Enjoy a free BBQ, fun games, entertainment and Exercise Demos.
RSVP appreciated for catering purposes, drop-in welcome contact the centre at 905-951-6114

Psychic Tina Curtis with Monthly Dinner
Friday, September 25th, 2026 Dinner 5:30 PM
Psychic 7PM-9PM
Join us for a group reading and monthly dinner starts at 5:30 PM at the Caledon Seniors Centre, this event is open to anyone in the community, you don't have to be 55+ to attend any of our fundraising events.
Members with dinner $50.00
Non-Members with dinner $58.50
Members Psychic only $35.00
Non-Members Psychic only $38.50
Call the centre at 905-951-6114 to register

Creating Keepsakes, Celebrating Moments Big & Small
Join Janine Smith for a day of reflection, creativity, and connection. This one-day mini-retreat features an immersive four-hour assemblage workshop with assemblage artist Eric Allen Montgomery, who will guide you in creating a one-of-a-kind memory box filled with your own treasured mementos artfully assembled for display.
Throughout the day, you'll be invited into gentle, meaningful exercises designed to deepen your connection with memory and gratitude. Enjoy a delicious hot lunch with a fresh salad bar and dessert, and end the experience with a closing circle around the fire, offering space for reflection and sharing.
Date: Sat, September 26th from 11 am to 6 pm
Registration fee including art supplies, lunch and snacks: $225
To register, visit https://wholepepperstudio.com/workshops
Email art@wholepepperstudio.com or call Janine at (519) 496-4008

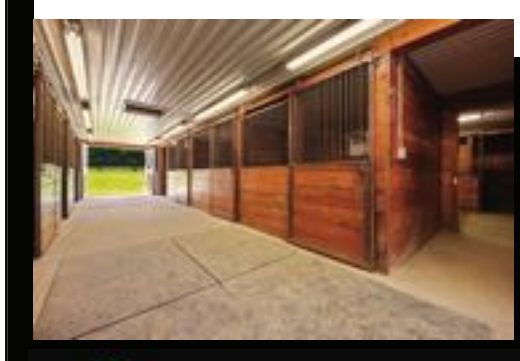
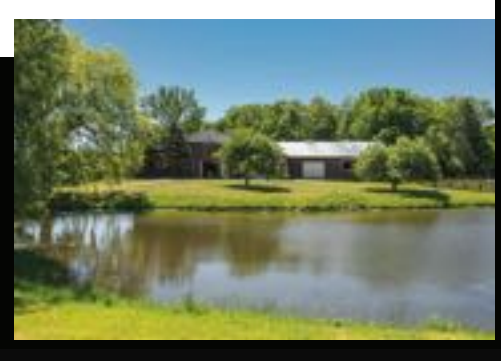
Walk for Healthy Living
Sunday September 27th, 2026 10 AM
Join us on **Sunday, September 27** for the **CSC Walk for Healthy Living**—a community fundraiser where every step makes a difference.
This 1, 2 or 5km walk is for **everyone**. Whether you're walking with family, friends, neighbours, coworkers, or your community group, your participation helps create a healthier, more connected Caledon.
Register your team at https://caledonseniors.ca/fundraising-events/csc-walk-for-healthy-living/



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BUSINESS

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Ministry begins design process for Highway 413

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



Minister of Transportation Prabmeet Sarkaria announced next steps in the construction of Highway 413 in Caledon on Tuesday morning.
KATHRYN FRASER PHOTO

On September 1, the Government of Ontario issued a notice to the province about the procurement to start to design and build the east section of both Highway 413 and the extension for Highway 427.

This announcement served as a milestone for the project and will represent roughly one third of the corridor.

The project will assist in the Province's plan to help reduce gridlock and bring more economic growth across the GTA, according to the Ministry.

Minister of Transportation Prabmeet Sarkaria made the announcement in Caledon and described how Ontario is continuing to move forward with their plans despite current tariffs being brought in.

"In the face of President Trump's tariffs, we are doubling down on our plan to build so that we can get people moving and keep Ontario workers on the job," says Sarkaria. "Highway 413 will reduce travel times across the GTA while supporting more than 6,000 jobs per year during construction and contributing more than $1 billion to Ontario's GDP."

This announcement is just the beginning of the additional construction that will be occurring on Highway 413, as well as many other projects in the area.

Following this announcement, a request of proposals later this fall will be issued for the design and construction of the east section of Highway 413 starting from Highway 400 to west of The Gore Road.

The request for proposals will also include the Highway 427 expansion taking place from Major Mackenzie Drive north to Highway 413.

Town of Caledon Mayor Annette Groves attended Tuesday's announcement and shared her thoughts on how this construction will be helpful to the Town of Caledon.

"Highway 413 represents a significant investment in Caledon's future. As our community continues to grow, we need transportation infrastructure that keeps people moving, supports our local economy and takes pressure off our existing road network," said Mayor Groves. "Today's progress [brings] us another step closer to delivering those critical connections, and I thank the Province for continuing to move this important project forward."

In addition to Mayor Groves and Minister Sarkaria, the announcement was attended by many other area MPPs and local representatives of communities impacted by the Highway 413 construction.

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones was there to show her support for the advancements that the Government of Ontario has put in place.

"As our government continues advancing work on Highway 413, we are delivering on our promise to fight gridlock, reduce travel times, and get Dufferin-Caledon families where they need to go, faster than ever before," said Jones. "Each step brings us closer to unlocking new destination, a legacy transportation network and shorter commutes for our residents."

The Government of Ontario has awarded a contract for a construction manager for the Highway 413 central contract. This includes the 9.1-kilometre extension from Highway 401 to Highway 413 that will aim to connect motorist to multiple highways, including Highways 407 ETR, 401, 403 and give more access to areas such as Burlington, Hamilton, Brantford and Woodstock.

The $31 billion investment will aim to build, repair and expand highways, roads and bridges across the province including Highway 413, the Bradford Bypass and the Garden City Skyway twin bridge.

For more information about Highway 413 project, visit highway413.ca/en.

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Caledon Admirals close OJHL pre-season schedule with 9-4 rout of the Toronto Warriors



Admirals forward Lucas Cameron screens Warriors goalie Cameron Hallett (29) in OJHL pre-season action on Sunday at the CECC. Cameron (22) scored two goals and earned two assists to lead all scorers in Caledon's 9 – 4 romp over Toronto. JIM STEWART PHOTO

BY JIM STEWART

Lucas Cameron tallied two goals and two assists to lead the Caledon Admirals to an emphatic 9-4 win over the Toronto Warriors at the Caledon East Community Complex on Sunday afternoon.

Austin Sylver fired two second period goals for Caledon. Jonah Gareau, Layton Strongman, Nolan Pipe, Justin Anselmo, and Braylon Masulka added one goal each. Playmakers Ronan Clarke and Evan Greco contributed three assists each to the home side's well-balanced scoring. Eleven Caledon skaters hit the scoresheet.

The Admirals, with a revamped team logo and an entirely new coaching staff comprised of Head Coach Brandon Villamere, Chelsey Greenwood, and Mike Rusk—looked ready, willing, and able to begin their 2026-27 season.

Their new captain—Caledon resident Nicholas Wlodarczyk—said he liked what he saw on Sunday afternoon versus the Warriors: "I loved the physical play. That's the physical style of play that we want to carry into the new season."

The veteran OJHLer—who played 159 games for the Mississauga Chargers over the last three seasons including a playoff series this past Spring versus the mighty Toronto Patriots—was clear about the Admirals' objective this coming season: "Our goal is to make the playoffs."

Wlodarczyk explained that building team chemistry is critical for the Admirals to achieve their club's goal. He noted that last year's Chargers squad grew closer as they engaged in team gatherings during the 2025-26 season and team bonding events helped them capture the eighth seed in the competitive OJHL West.

The personable team leader and his family hosted a team BBQ last month and the Admirals held a pre-season golf tournament at Glen Eagle in August to generate the kind of links that galvanizes hockey players. Wlodarczyk added that "We're going out for more team activities during the season, including getting a box for a Leafs game."

The grit and unity that Wlodarczyk values were evident in Sunday afternoon's game. It was a chippy affair with 32 infractions called—15 by Toronto and 17 by Caledon. The Admirals drew over 50 minutes in penalties and that was one element of the game that the new Captain wants to see cleaned up: "We'll need to cut down on the penalties—myself included."

Wlodarczyk demonstrated his aggressive play by drawing 18 minutes in penalties against the Warriors, including a first period skirmish with Toronto's Sam Weedmark.

The Wlodarczyk-Weedmark tussle inspired The Fleet which had fallen behind 2-1 midway through the opening frame when Julio Farro beat Caledon goaltender Jacob Saldanha at 13:37.

Less than three minutes after the Captain's skirmish, Cameron's power play goal, set up by Clarke, evened the score much to the delight of the 150 fans assembled at the CECC.

The Admirals—decked out in their gold Oscar's Roadhouse pre-season jerseys—closed the penalty-filled first period on the attack and their aggressive play foreshadowed a four-goal second period.

The Fleet's diligence paid off three minutes into the middle frame when Sylver finished off a perfect pass off the left wing from Cameron—sliding the puck past Warriors' goalie Cameron Hallett and giving the home side a 3-2 lead.

Ninety seconds later, the Warriors responded when Henry Wang swept behind the net and tucked the puck in the lower left corner behind Saldanha to pull the visitors into a 3-3 tie.

Eight minutes into the equally-chippy middle frame, Caledon was gifted with a 4-on-3 power play. Greco and Cameron set up Sylver who used the extra space to wheel into the slot and rifle a low shot along the ice through Hallett's pads to stake the Admirals to a 4-3 lead.

Sylver's marker gave the Admirals' power play its second of three goals scored on Sunday as newly-configured team capitalized on three of its seven man-advantage opportunities.

Another Caledon incursion into the Warriors' zone—this time at even strength – resulted in a nice 2-on-1 finish when Clarke fed Cameron, whose shot crossed the line before Hallett dislodged his net to give the Admirals a 2-goal margin.

Saldanha protected that lead by making a breakaway save seconds after Cameron's second goal had made it 5-3.

The athletic Admirals goaltender made another "kick save and a beauty" with 1:40 to go and committed another robbery with 35 seconds left. This sequence of saves caught Captain Wlodarczyk's attention.

"Jacob played his angles really well today. He was getting over—side to side—and made some big saves after we had scored goals. He played amazing today."

Bouyed by Saldanha's timely saves, the Admirals made one more push into the Warriors' end. With ten seconds left on the clock, Strongman made a nifty move—braking and deking left before sliding the puck past Hallett to boost the home side's lead to 6-3 heading into the final frame.

Less than three minutes into the third period, the rout was on when the Admirals fired two quick goals. Pipe's unassisted power play marker at 2:24 made it 7-3 and Anselmo's unassisted even-strength tally 14 seconds later chased Hallett from the net with an insurmountable five-goal lead.

The Admirals' specialty teams struck again when rugged winger Masulka banged in his own rebound for a short-handed goal with less than five minutes to go—much to the delight of his teammates.

The Warriors—transplanted from Cobourg after a woeful season as the Cougars and recalibrating as a franchise at the Scotiabank Pond in Downsview—fired a power play goal of their own when Brandon Beauchamp squeaked one through Saldanha to close the scoring with 3:33 to play.

Let the Games Begin

The Caledon Admirals commence their OJHL season in Niagara Falls versus the Canucks on Friday, September 4 at 7 p.m. The Fleet's first home game will be Sunday, September 13 when they host the Canucks at Mayfield at 2:30 PM.



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Public Notice

Peel Region

Environmental Assessment Study
NOTICE OF STUDY COMPLETION
Bolton Water and Wastewater Capacity Improvements
Schedule 'C' Class Environmental Assessment

Background

Peel Region has completed the Bolton Water and Wastewater Capacity Improvements Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) study. This MCEA builds off a Feasibility Study completed in 2023 by the Region which outlined conceptual water and wastewater projects that service the additional development proposed within both the intensification and greenfield growth areas in the Community of Bolton. Additionally, the MCEA has completed a comprehensive evaluation of alternatives to develop optimal water and wastewater servicing solutions to meet existing needs and growth within the Bolton study area.

Your Input Is Important:

You are invited to review the draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the Bolton Water and Wastewater Servicing Optimization Strategy, to provide the project team with feedback and comments. This ESR documents the planning process undertaken, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and the following recommendations (**Figure 1**):

1. New sanitary pumping station,
2. New sanitary twin forcemains along Emil Kolb Parkway,
3. New sewer and watermains along Emil Kolb Parkway, Mount Hope Road and Highway 50,
4. New watermain along Columbia Way, and
5. Water and wastewater system optimization measures, including pressure zone adjustments, new Bolton SPS forcemain, and continued inflow and infiltration reduction program and monitoring of system performance.

Subject to comments received following this Notice and the receipt of approvals, the Region intends to proceed with construction of the recommended project as outlined in the ESR.

Environmental Study Report (ESR):

The ESR will be available for a 30-day public review period from August 31st to September 30, 2026. An electronic copy of the ESR will be available for public review on the project website. You can access the website using the link below or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone: https://peelregion.ca/construction/environmental-assessments/bolton-water-wastewater-capacity-improvements

Comment Submission:

If you wish to submit comments and/or concerns on this study, please contact the Project Manager listed below. If you have concerns related to Indigenous treaty rights which cannot be resolved, you may send your Section 16 Order request to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Director of the Environmental Assessment Branch at the addresses listed below. A copy of the request should also be sent to the Region's Project Manager. **All requests must be received by the Project Manager within the 30-day public review period by September 30, 2026.**

Ministry Contacts:

Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor,
Toronto ON M7A 2J4
416-314-6790
Email: Minister.MECP@Ontario.ca

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
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Peel Region is committed to ensure that all Regional services, programs, and facilities are inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities. Please contact the Project Manager if you need any accommodation to provide comments or feedback for this study.

This notice was first issued on August 31st, 2026

With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record of the study. This study is being conducted according to the requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, which is a planning process approved under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act.

Brewers go 2-2 at the Ontario Senior A championships in Niagara Falls

BY JIM STEWART

The Bolton Brewers used four games at the Ontario Senior A Baseball Championships as a warmup for their NDBL Finals showdown with the New Lowell Knights which commences on September 12.

In Niagara Falls on Friday night, the Brewers opened their OBA tournament schedule with a 16-11 win over Chatham.

Ben Sterritt drove in six runs to lead Bolton's offensive attack. Dan Accardo and Brett Chater drove in three each. A big six-run second inning outburst impelled Bolton to victory.

Catcher Logan Hart stepped out from behind the plate and toed the slab, worked five innings, and earned the W.

Hart struck out six Chatham batters.

Matteo Stothers earned a two-inning save.

Following the battering of Chatham, Bolton edged NDBL rival Barrie 8-7 to build a 2-0 record in the double-elimination tourney.

Stothers earned the W in relief after regular left fielder Chris Fafalios pitched six innings to save the Brewers starters for their looming date with New Lowell. The ageless Chater had another big game offensively—driving in three, accruing two hits, and scoring three runs.

Carter Burnside turned in a four-knock performance. The veteran catcher drove in one and scored one.

Both Sterritt and Jack Larmer—hitting in their customary two-spot and three-spot in the Brewers' potent lineup – collected two hits and one RBI each.

The wheels fell off for the Brewers on Saturday afternoon when they used position players as starters and kept their eyes on the NDBL prize.

Bolton dropped an 11-0 decision to Woodstock and suffered an 8-2 knockout defeat to Chatham. Sterritt continued to heat up for the NDBL Finals by pumping out three more hits and an RBI versus Chatham.

Player-Coach Mike Wallace drove in the other Bolton run.

The Brewers will seek their eighth North Dufferin Baseball League Senior championship when they take on the second-place Knights on September 12 in New Lowell. Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is set for Taylor Fields on September 13.

In New Lowell, Bolton will look to keep their hot playoff streak alive during which they've won six of their last eight games.

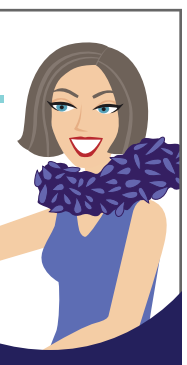
The fifth-place Brewers eliminated fourth-place Orillia in four games in the best-of-five quarterfinals and replicated that series result versus first-place Owen Sound in the semifinals—ousting the pennant-winning Baysox from the playoffs and booking a trip to the Finals to face the second-place Knights.

FOCUS ON WOMEN IN BUSINESS

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Residents have more opportunities to learn about Argo pilot



Residents had the chance to get a feel for the new vehicle at the heart of the Argo transit pilot program at an open house held Tuesday. KATHRYN FRASER PHOTO

Continued from FRONT

Prior to the start of the program there will be two further information sessions where members of the community will be able to learn more about the program and even get a chance to see the bus up-close.

The next information sessions will take place on Thursday, September 3, at the Caledon Community Complex from 5 – 8 p.m., and on Tuesday, September 8 at the Southfields Village Community Centre from 5 – 8 p.m.

These sessions are drop-in and residents will also be able to meet the members of the Argo team that will be able to answer questions and provide additional information about the service.

Jenna Bendayan is the Head of Business Operations at Argo and was the main organizer of the event session and spent time answering a variety of questions from each attendee of the drop-in session.

One main interest for many is the ability for seniors to use the transportation and to be able to get more access so that they can get out into the community more.

Looking towards the beginning of the pilot date, Bendayan is hopeful that there will be many participants who are interested in this new pilot program.

"We've been we've been around town talking to different seniors and they're really excited about the opportunity," said Bendayan on Tuesday. "We were just at the Rotary Club earlier today talking to different seniors is about the ability to kind of get out into the community, students as well. So, we're really excited about the opportunity for Caledon residents and the Town."

In addition to members of Argo being at the sessions, members of the Town of Caledon team were also present.

Tong Wang, Manager of Transportation Engineering and Planning for the Town of Caledon was one of the members at the session and is excited for this new pilot program with Argo.

"We're very excited. Microtransit is something that's very new, I think, to the transportation landscape in general, and it's very exciting that we're piloting something like this in Caledon," says Wang. "We look forward to kind of seeing how successful this pilot will be and that's going to inform us and allow it next steps as well."

For more information about Argo and updates on the pilot, visit www.rideargo.com.

Brampton Flight Centre to host Annual Airport Day

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Brampton Flight Centre will once again host their annual Airport Day at the Brampton-Caledon Airport on September 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission into the event is $10 per adult, $5 for students and seniors and children under 14 with a paying adult are free.

This event will be in support of Caledon Community Services.

The day's entertainment will include a visit to the Great War Flying Museum, a chance to walk around classic antique aircrafts and automobiles, airport tours, face painting, birds of prey, a bouncy castle, live music, and the chance to get a bite to eat from either the BFC Restaurant Café or from one of the many food trucks that will be on site.

Attendees will also have the chance to try the Sightseeing Flights that the Brampton Flight Centre offers for $50, weather permitting as some of the flights may be canceled due to changes in the weather.

Members of the community are asked to bring non-perishable food items to donate in support of Caledon Community Services. Items such as cereal, peanut butter, granola bars, pasta, soups, baby essentials are some of the recommended items for those interested in making a donation.

Attendees are also able to donate monetary contributions in support of CCS.

Kim D'Eri, Manager of the Caledon Community Services, is grateful to be able to partner with the Brampton Flight Centre on this event and be able to add more items to their inventory.

"It is always wonderful to have people that want to help us and support the food bank. We see so many people that come through our doors and to have places like the Brampton Flight Centre provide an event where people can donate and help members in the community is great," says D'Eri.

For more information about the Brampton Flight Centre Airport Day Event please visit www.bramptonflightcentre.com.

OBITUARIES

DARLENE DOROTHY HOWIE (NÉE BROWN



It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Darlene Dorothy Howie (née Brown) on Monday, August 24, 2026. She is survived by her husband, William, and her daughter Suzanne, as well as her sister, Dale Caverly.

A life long resident of Caledon, Darlene was a long term fixture in Guiding in Bolton, being a leader and Commissioner through out the 1990s and into the 2000s. She volunteered with the United Church Sunday School and touched the lives of all who met her.

She will forever live on in the hearts and memories of those whose lives she help make just a little better with her warm smile, genuine heart, and laugh.

A memorial visitation was held at Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street South (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Monday afternoon, August 31 from 1pm to 4pm. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.EganFuneralHome.com

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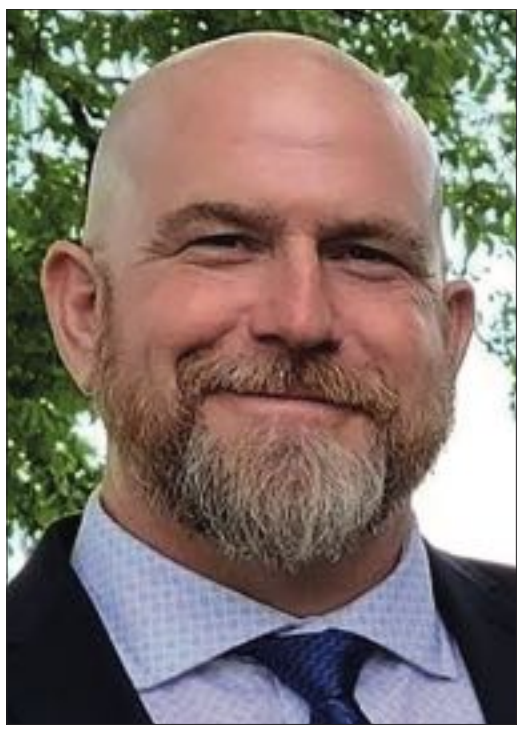
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Meet Your Council Candidates: Tom Sweeney, Ward 1

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Tom Sweeney has begun his campaign for Councillor of Ward 1 in the upcoming municipal election.

After running for Regional Council the past two terms, Sweeney has decided to change lanes and run for Ward 1 Councillor.

"It's continued that Ward 1 seems to always get the short end of the stick, and it's because of our lack of population, we're smaller grouped, and we don't get a lot of, amenities and things in this area, which is understandable to some degree. But over the years, it's a feeling of neglect when you go around to the communities," says Sweeney. "I guess the main reason is to stand up to try and get some things straightened out with our ward, to try and bring the community together and try to get our voice heard".

Sweeney has lived in Caledon his entire life and has established himself in the community through many groups such as his work in the Caledon Lions Club, where he has served many roles including Secretary and Club President.

Running for Councillor of Ward 1 will give Sweeney the opportunity to advocate for those in the community and give residents a chance to voice concerns.

One priority that Sweeney has is making sure that funds and taxpayer dollars are spent in a resourceful and smart way.

"Responsible spending and governments are a big priority," he said. "I come from a construction and logistics background. I work in construction and they're all fact-based. You can't build a building on goodwill. You can't build these things on hope and feelings. It all comes down to, do we have the money? Do we have items? Do we have the land? Do we have the will to do it? And to just do things for the sake of doing them is a problem.

"I really want to push back on those, only because I don't want to see us get so far ahead of ourselves that we're bankrupting a community. That's really the problem. People don't understand; 80,000 people living in a Town the size of Toronto with the roads that we have to service, with the garbage and the waters supply and everything else, it's not that easy.... If you're spending a million dollars [of public money], that's $40 out every household. They say 26,000 households, whatever that might mean now; the reality is each of those places are getting taxed for that, so not everyone agrees that every little thing that comes to someone's mind or, you know, a feel-good plan should be spent on it."

If elected, Sweeney says he wants to be able to get the communities together and to discuss the challenges that each community shares and separately has.

Traffic safety is another issue that Sweeney wants to be able to raise concerns about as it affects the average resident frequently.

"The average member of the community that really sees and is affecting them are the roads that are even damaged by trucks, and we are very poorly compensated for that by the industry, as well as the traffic that's occurring," says Sweeney. "That is kind of a big player, because the traffic of every community you go into, every hamlet, every little village that you go into.... traffic is a concern. They put a 40-kilometre zone, and for a reason, and people tend to ignore that. And it's not always people from out of the community. Education needs to be there, and people need to be notified, but traffic calming measures would be a real piece of that and would help."

Sweeney wants voters to trust in him and help him make change in Ward 1.

"Our family has been here now for 180 years or something and we've seen things come and go. Anything I've done over the last couple of decades has been in the service of the community. I do that because I care about the community, and I want to protect the community. I'm not in it for the gain. I don't want the accolades. That's not my concern.

"I've worked very hard for the community. I continue to believe that this community is worth working for, so I would just ask that the community give me a shot at it and let me try and help them out."



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Caledon Votes 2026



Meet Your Council Candidates: Kate Hepworth, Ward 1

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Kate Hepworth has thrown her hat in the ring for the chance to become Councillor for Ward 1.

Hepworth ran for Councillor back in 2022 and is once again seeking to be a voice for Ward 1 residents.

Hepworth led a long-term career in Parry Sound where she was an EMS/Fire Dispatcher and, after 25 years, she decided to retire and move to Caledon.

While enjoying her retirement, Hepworth found herself becoming interested in what was happening in her area and decided to take a step in a new direction and get involved.

In 2017 Hepworth joined the Caledon Village Association (CVA) and worked behind the scenes helping to support groups and residents and make a difference in her community. Hepworth became President of the CVA in 2018 and has continued to serve her community in this role for the last 10 years.

Hepworth's hard work and dedication was celebrated in 2022 when she was awarded the 2022 Volunteer Services Award in Community and Social Services.

Throughout her time at the CVA, Hepworth has had the opportunity to work with many groups in the community including the Caledon Agricultural Society, Caledon Lions, Optimists, Alton Village Association, North West Caledon Traffic Group and many more.

Getting to work closely with the community and wanting to make a difference, Hepworth entered this year's campaign for Ward 1 as she still has the same concerns she had last time ran and wants another chance to make a difference.

"I'm really looking to…get on that side of the table and to be able to move ahead the issues of the area," says Hepworth.

Given her experience with EMS, Hepworth knows the importance of getting in contact with people and having your voice heard.

"Nobody calls EMS because they're having a good day, and many times, people are not going call their Councillor because they're having a good day. They have an issue and they want your attention, and it's a follow-through," says Hepworth. "You couldn't just leave a 911 call halfway through because you got busy with something else. It has to be the follow through, right to the end, providing the support, providing whatever resources these people needed. So, I believe I bring that to the table, which is needing to ask the questions, needing to get all the information to be able to provide, as a Councillor, the answers that people are looking for, whether they're the answers they want or not – because you can't always be that moment of, 'I have your solution, and it's a great one.' It may not always end well"

One important issue that stands out to Hepworth that she hopes to be able to make change in is traffic and road safety, especially when it comes to Highway 10.

"I think the biggest issues that we have moving forward are aggregate and road safety. Now, the two of those really go hand-in-hand. We've got more heavy traffic on the roads, which leads to the safety concerns, which leads to how well the people drive on the roads with the heavy traffic, says Hepworth. "We do seem to have our fair share of drivers that are impatient, road rage is huge, but we also have a lot of truck drivers that are equally as bad on the roads. That's not to criticize everybody. If [everyone] was a bad driver, we'd have even more issues. In order to be able to move forward, there needs to be stronger advocacy, conversation with those departments that can help us, and I'm working very close transportation departments. I know we have the opportunity, as a Councillor, to speak to the different departments. But as somebody mentioned to me not long ago, if those conversations are really working well, why are we still talking about them? That's a valid point."

Hepworth hopes to be able to continue to work with the MTO and be able to bring more solutions to the table.

"We have to find that solution; exactly what that is, I'm not sure, but pressure and strong advocacy have to happen. For Ward 1 with Highway 10, we must bring MTO in more. A great starting point for me, being on the Traffic Advisory Committee, was MTO started to turn up, and…it was good constructive conversation… We need to bring that Committee back so that we can keep those conversations going because that really only started the back end of last year, that they were coming out to the meeting. I believe that's a good starting point."

Part of her plan as well is to increase communication between members of the community and Council, giving residents the chance to have their voice heard.

"I want to give residents as many options as possible. In today's technology, you've got text messages, you've got email, there's the ability to be on the Town website and go directly through there with messages that get passed on to the Councillor," says Hepworth. "I think there's been too much of a history where emails get sent, and clearly you may not get a response right away because Councillors are busy with all kinds of things, but you do get a response, and people need to feel like they're actually included."

Looking forward, Hepworth is hopeful to be able to have the chance to make a difference and support her community in Ward 1.

"I'm hoping people will put their trust in me, because all the issues are still here. They are the same issues I was pushing for the last time. I' m still here, I didn't go away. I didn't stop going to Council meetings. I didn't stop advocating for things. I'm still here, and I hope that they give me their votes so that I can have a stronger voice to speak for them."

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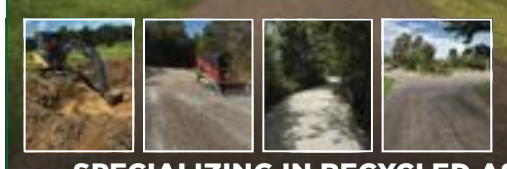
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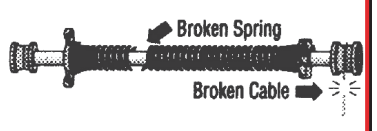
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