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FLAG RAISING – Caledon Council members and Mayor Anette Groves stand with Captain (Ret'd) Kevin Junor for a Black History Month flag raising outside Caledon Town Hall on Feb. 17. See full story on Page A2.
RILEY MURPHY PHOTO

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The path she started, they still follow: Annual Walk of Reflection honours Jenni Le Forestier's legacy

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A time for reflection, and a time to be with one another.

That's what Jenni Le Forestier set out to do with her first Walk of Reflection held in 2022.

A time for those in the community not just to reflect on the beauty around them and what it represents, but also to spend time together.

Following Le Forestier's passing from cancer in 2022, her family and friends have continued on her tradition and hold a yearly walk of remembrance, in the same place, for the same reasons.

Le Forestier, a Belfountain resident, was a community champion in numerous ways.

Not only was she a Green Party federal candidate for Dufferin-Caledon in 2021, but Le Forestier also led the Belfountain Community Organization and served on the Town of Caledon Heritage Committee.

She worked tirelessly to protect the landscapes of Caledon, building movements against projects threatening water, farmland, and heritage.



WALKING IN HONOURING – Those who came together for the walk on February 15th at Higher Ground Cafe in Belfountain.
RILEY MURPHY PHOTO

She was an active contributor in many environmental groups, including Gravel Watch Ontario, the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition, the Peel Enviro Hub, the Coalition for the West Credit River, and the Stop the 413 and Stop Sprawl movements.

The Remembrance Walk, organized by Stacey Mortimer, Ann Seymour, Alexis Wright, and Le Forestier's mother, Janine, stands to keep awareness of the issues Le Forestier worked so hard to represent.

Continued on Page A2

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C3 Alumni Mark Herbst recognized by Princess Margaret Cancer Centre as top fundraiser

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon's C3 Canadian Cross Training Club Alumni Mark Herbst has been recognized at Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital for being the single biggest individual fundraiser through his D.I.Y fundraiser.

Herbst recently donated almost $70,000 to cancer research after biking around the world.

In his attempt for a Guinness World Record as the oldest person to circumnavigate the world by bicycle, Herbst cycled 30,000 kilometres around the world. He did this to raise money for cancer research in honour of his late wife, Jackie, who he lost in 2021 after she was diagnosed with squamous cell cancer.

Over 11 months, Herbst cycled through 25 countries, often spending more than 8 hours a day on the road, covering over 100 kilometres.

Herbst began his journey in Bangkok in January of last year and returned to that very spot this past December.

"It was pretty bizarre, actually, the finish. I had to ride back to the exact same place I started from, and I was on my own this time; there wasn't anybody to see me off," laughs Herbst.

He says it wasn't until the next day, at his hotel, that it truly set in what he had just accomplished.

Continued on Page A3

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Flag raising for Black History Month held at Caledon Town Hall

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Caledon officially raised the Black History Month flag this past Tuesday, February 17.

The event was attended by Caledon residents, Town of Caledon staff and Council, Caledon Fire, and special guests, including Captain (Ret'd) Kevin Junor.

Junor had a career with the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves that spanned three decades and was appointed to the Order of Ontario in 2024.

He moved to Bolton 20 years ago.

Standing outside Caledon Town Hall that day, he says there's still more change to come.

"Black History Month is here because there's been a number of black individuals who have dedicated their lives to the King, Queen community, but they're not accepted. They're not recognized, and it's an opportunity to highlight individuals," says Junor.

Junor says he hopes for a day when they no longer have to raise a flag to say it's "Black History Month," but a month where it is just "Canadian month."

"We're not there yet, because we still have racial profiling. We still have kids going to school and they're picked on because of the color of their skin. We still have people not being employed in given positions because of the color of their skin. But until then, let's just say it's been a long time coming. But change is going to come," says Junor, quoting "A Change Is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke.

Noting what Junor says, Mayor Annette Groves adds that "we have come a very long way," saying that more changes are needed, but that significant progress has already been made.

"Thanks to many people before us, they've paved the way. They've suffered, but they've made the way much easier for us to survive and to succeed if we choose to," says Groves.

She adds that Black History Month is "a wonderful opportunity to celebrate history and celebrate the achievements and resilience of Black communities."

"Our country is one of the best countries in the world," says Groves. "(Coming) from a place like Jamaica and growing up here, and the opportunities that this country has afforded my family and I, it has been absolutely wonderful," says Groves.

During the proclamation, Groves read aloud that Black History Month is an opportunity to learn about and recognize the history of Black Canadians, the role they have played in building communities, and the vital need to combat racism, discrimination, and inequity. This is achieved, in part, through gaining a greater understanding of the discrimination and marginalization faced by Black Canadians.



SHARING IMPORTANCE – Captain (Ret'd) Kevin Junor addresses the crowd during a flag raising at Caledon Town Hall on February 17 for Black History Month. **RILEY MURPHY PHOTO**

Ending the flag raising, Groves encourages everyone to attend the various Black History Month events upcoming locally, such as the Town of Caledon's Black History Month Celebration on February 21 at Southfields Community Centre, which will feature Junor's presentation on the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

The African Inventors and Icons Exhibition will run twice more throughout the month, on February 21 and 28.

There will be a Black Community and Innovation event at North Peel Community Church on February 28, as well.

The flag was raised half-mast to mark the tragedy that occurred in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia.

The path she started, they still follow: Annual Walk of Reflection honours local advocate's legacy

Continued from Front

The walk begins at Higher Ground Cafe in Belfountain, a staple in the Belfountain community, then follows a short path down past the West Credit River and loops back on Bush Street.

Seymour is not only an organizer for the walk, but was Le Forestier's neighbour, jokingly adding that anyone who lives in Belfountain is a neighbour to one another.

Seymour explained that Le Forestier originally planned this walk after getting the idea from the movie Groundhog Day.

"The main character repeats the same day, day after day, after day. Jenni made the connection to Groundhog Day because as advocates for the environment, we repeat again and again the same actions and tasks and ask our government to protect nature," says Seymour.

"But importantly, on this day, Jenni's goal was for us to be together, just to be present by the river, to take a breath, and just be."

Seymour reflected on this very conversation she had with Jenni during the inaugural walk in 2022.

"I really value this day. We intend to continue in the future," says Seymour.

She explains that they knew they had to carry the walk on, "as the years go by, it just becomes more and more important to do this work, and it is difficult work. It is a lot of work as well to communicate with all levels of government to protect the ecosystem that we find here."

Now in its fourth year, the group plans to continue it for many years to come.

"Every year, we will have this day just to gather and reflect on all of the work that has been done to protect the West Credit River and Caledon's environment. Jenni's purpose in doing her work, her main purpose, was to protect the West Credit River for her daughter," says Seymour.

"She came at this fight as a mother."

Mortimer spoke to the group gathered outside of Higher Ground Cafe that day about what the walk represents, something that reflects bringing everyone together, themselves and the land and the waters.

Appreciating and reflecting not only on the land and water that support everyone, but also about reconciling one's relationship with the original stewards of the land, and making a start by reconciling with the land itself.

Mortimer says these were often the topics they mulled over when they first lost Jenni, and how it's important to keep the walk and these reflections growing.

On the walk trailing down River Road, up to Shaws Creek Road and back over to Bush Street, where the walk began, Le Forestier's friends and family pointed out the places that held memories still near and dear to them during the walk on February 15.

The group stopped and reflected at a point along the West Credit River, and all the Le Forestier set out to protect and advocate for.

Continuing along the walk, parks and trails were pointed out where one could often find Le Forestier herself.

When the group returned to Higher Ground Cafe and huddled together for their yearly group photo, it was clear that this walk would stand the test of time, just as the work they're trying to do.

The Coalition for the West Credit River, a group which Le Forestier was once a part of, has been tirelessly advocating since 2018 about the proposed Erin Wastewater Treatment Plant that will have "adverse effects on native Brook Trout and their coldwater habitat in the West Credit River."

The group fears that with the sewage effluent discharged from the proposed Town of Erin Wastewater Treatment Plant, the self-sustaining native Brook Trout population in the West Credit River will suffer.

This coldwater species' survival depends on stream temperatures no greater than 19 to 20°C for any sustained period of time.

Seymour is a member of the Coalition and explained that they recently attended the Town of Erin Council meeting to advocate on numerous items related to the treatment plant.

Such as a full and effective effluent cooling system installed before the plant goes into operation, which would be necessary to maintain the river's temperature.

The Coalition for the West Credit River says it supports growth and sustainable development through a wastewater plant that does no harm.

The group will continue to advocate for the protection of the West Credit River, just as Le Forestier had for numerous years.



WALKING IN HER HONOUR – Those who came together for the walk on February 15 at Higher Ground Cafe in Belfountain. **RILEY MURPHY PHOTO**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR ALLOA LOCAL SUBWATERSHED STUDY

A public information meeting is scheduled to discuss a Local Subwatershed Study (LSS) for the Alloa Secondary Plan Study Area. The Primary Study Area is generally bounded by Chinguacousy Road (east), Mayfield Road (south), and Highway 413 (north and west).

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an overview and update on the multi-disciplinary LSS process to date. An LSS intends to establish a baseline characterization of environmental conditions and natural systems in a study area. The LSS is being prepared in support of future development in the approved Alloa Secondary Plan area. This is the second public information meeting for the LSS – a first meeting was held in December 2024.

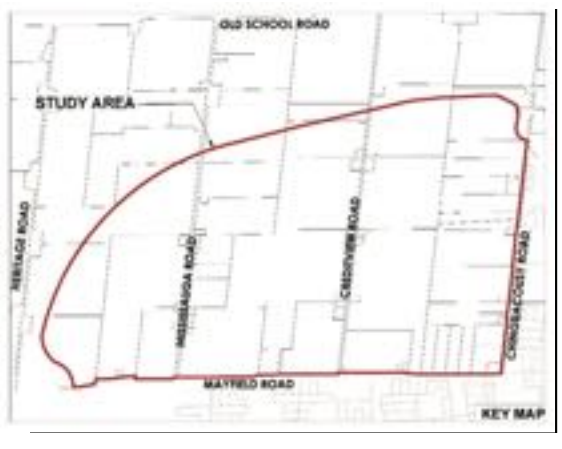
The scheduled meeting is virtual and there will be a formal presentation from the LSS project team followed by a question and comment period. To register for the virtual meeting, please send your name and address to breannasb@gsai.ca, with "Alloa Subwatershed Study" as the subject. A link with access instructions will be sent to you.

If you have any questions about the LSS or the Alloa Secondary Plan, please contact Zechariah Bouchard (GSAI) at zechariahb@gsai.ca or 416-930-4958.

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Glen Schnarr & Associates Inc
(GSAI) C.F. Crozier & Associates Inc.(Crozier)
Alloa Landowners Group Inc.

MEETING DATE:
March 11, 2026

MEETING TIME:
5:30 - 7:00 pm
(the presentation will begin at 5:40pm)



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C3 Alumni Mark Herbst named top fundraiser for Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Continued from Front

"It kind of hit me that, Oh my god, I just actually rode around the world," Herbst recalls.

He is currently writing a book detailing his journey, and he shared that the trek itself was a logistical nightmare.

Herbst would wake up every day at 6 a.m. First, he'd listen to hear if it was raining, then pack up his stuff and set out for the day, often riding between eight and 12 hours each day.

Then, when all was done, Herbst would yet again have to find a place to stay, something he said was quite challenging, before unpacking his stuff and preparing to do it all again.

"I'd get my dinner together, and then I'd start looking at the logistics for the next day. I was travelling anywhere between 100 to 120 kilometres a day, so the first thing I would do is say if I do 120 kilometres tomorrow, where am I going to be, and usually you're not going to be anywhere."

Herbst explains that he often had to travel even farther to find somewhere to stay for the night.

His bedtime routine included planning for food and water, service, heat, and the climb for the next day, then he'd have to log everything for Guinness and finally call it a day.

In every country he was in, Herbst encountered his own version of angels. He explains that, even when people would have nothing themselves, they would often invite him in for dinner.

During his time in Australia, a fan even wrote to him, saying they were out of town and that he could "make himself at home."

Never been the type to accept help before in his life, Herbst said that completely changed on his journey.

"It's just that I needed these people, I needed to accept their generosity, or I wouldn't have made it," he says.

Oftentimes, the mental load was extremely challenging, he says, adding that it was much harder than he had ever anticipated.

But every day, he would get up and go.

Although he had many fun moments on his journey, he recounts a time when a stranger heard what he was doing, invited him to stay at their house, and took him lawn bowling.

"I've never gone lawn bowling before. So sure. Yeah, I'll do that," he laughs.

He continues to reflect on the kindness of strangers who got him through these times, like during the 40-degree heat, when a police officer checked on him daily during one of Herbst's stretches of kilometres and brought him food and water.

Now back home safe and sound, Herbst is enjoying the simple pleasures of life again, like not setting his alarm and knowing where he's going to sleep every night.

Already eager to get back on his bike, he's now training for the Paris to Ancaster Bike Race in April.

For future trips, Herbst says he's going to take them at a more leisurely pace, taking in the sights around him a little more than he did on his recent trip around the world.

"Every country has something gorgeous about it," he says. "I saw so many incredible things."

When Herbst began his journey, he set out to raise $30,000, and as he got closer to the finish line, donations kept growing, bringing him to over $67,000 today.

His original goal was to raise money for cancer research in each location, with that money staying in each place. But, as logistics made it nearly impossible, Herbst chose Princess Margaret to raise the money for.



MAKING AN IMPACT – On February 3, Mark Herbst was recognized for being the single biggest individual fundraiser at Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital.

RILEY MURPHY PHOTO

He explains that they are among the top five research hospitals in the world, and that each research facility shares its data with the others.

"This is something that is going to benefit everybody in the world that is touched by cancer. They may do something at Princess Margaret, and then somebody in Italy is doing a line of research and uses that data from Princess Margaret, and then they come up with something incredible that's going to help people," says Herbst.

"I wanted it to be worldwide. I wanted to speak to everyone, and cancer certainly does," he continues. "Two out of every five people in their life are going to be diagnosed with cancer. That's insane. Twenty million people this year worldwide will be diagnosed with cancer."

He describes being recognized by Princess Margaret as "icing on the cake," saying it completely surprised him.

It's just like Herbst always to set a new goal for himself, and he hopes to have his book detailing his adventure out by next Christmas.

"I wanted to write a book since I was in high school. I always wanted to do that. But I never had anything to write about. So this is a great opportunity because it's obviously something very close to me, and I hope it resonates," he says.

Caledon Town Crier Andrew Welch rings out final cry after serving in the role for 15 years

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you've ever attended an event in Caledon, whether it was a tree lighting, Hike for Bethell Hospice, a Santa Claus parade, or the Walk of Fame, you may have heard the dulcet tones of Caledon Town Crier Andrew Welch.

Welch has been Caledon's town crier since 2011, giving his very first cry at the Alton Mill Fire and Ice Festival.

And now, in a full circle moment, on January 31 at the 16th annual Fire and Ice festival, Welch has given his last cry as the official town crier of Caledon.

Have no fear, you'll still see his brightly coloured regalia, or hear him, around town, just not in his official position.

Welch is pursuing numerous opportunities in his life and, needing more flexibility, has decided to step down as Caledon's town crier.

Welch is pursuing work at the University of Waterloo in ecological philosophy, providing lectures.

Over the years, Welch has published numerous books, his first titled The Value Crisis, which discusses how "unprecedented dominance of numbers and number-based values in our world has relegated our time-honoured human values to the wayside."

His second book, published in 2022, is titled Our Second Chance and is a sequel to the first.

Continued on Page A11



CHEERFUL CRIER – Andrew Welch cracks a joke during Belfountain's Bicentennial on October 4, 2025. Welch officially hung up his town crier hat on Jan. 31, during the 16th annual Fire and Ice Festival at the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

RILEY MURPHY PHOTO

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TOWN OF CALEDON SHARES UPDATES REGARDING ILLEGAL LAND USE TASK FORCE STATISTICS

Since the launch of the Illegal Land Use Task Force in November 2024, the Town of Caledon says that it has actively investigated more than 100 files related to suspected illegal land use activities, resulting in a substantial amount of enforcement activity.

This includes: 32 prosecutions currently at various stages of the legal process; 11 ongoing investigations; 8 orders and notices issued with compliance deadlines approaching; 4 injunctions; and 1 prohibition order.

On February 11, 2026, the Town secured another prosecution resulting in a $60,000 fine for an illegal truck depot along The Gore Road.

A prohibition order was also granted, preventing the parking or storage of commercial motor vehicles over 4,500 kg on the property in the future.

"We are seeing real progress, but this important work must continue," said Mayor Annette Groves. "Our community deserves safe roads and responsible land use. I want to thank our provincial and federal colleagues who continue to stand with us as we push for stronger tools and meaningful change."

CALEDON OPP MAJOR CRIME UNIT LAY NUMEROUS CHARGES IN CONNECTION TO ARSON INVESTIGATION

On February 6, at approximately 2 p.m., Caledon OPP officers responded to a report of a residential house fire in the area of Mount Wolfe Road and Old Church Road, in the Town of Caledon.

Members of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services attended the scene and extinguished the fire. No injuries were sustained as a result of the fire.

The fire was deemed suspicious and members of the Caledon MCU entered into an investigation.

On February 13, a search warrant was executed upon a dwelling in the Town of Caledon and evidence supporting the investigation was seized. As a result of the investigation, two individuals were arrested and charged.

Mandeep Sutharson, 42, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Arson
- Public mischief
- Fraud over $5000
- Obstruct peace officer

Sutharson Krishnamoorthy, 47, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Arson
- Public mischief
- Fraud over $5000
- Obstruct peace officer

None of the charges have been proven in court. The accused parties are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on May 7, 2026, to answer to their charges.

IMPAIRED DRIVING INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN SEIZURE OF REPLICA FIREARM

Caledon Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers have laid numerous charges against an individual following a traffic stop.

On Feb. 7, at approximately 11:30 p.m., while on general patrol, Caledon OPP officers observed a vehicle displaying poor driving behaviour in the area of Mayfield Road and Hurontario Street, in Caledon.

Officers conducted a traffic stop upon the vehicle and formed grounds that the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol.

During the investigation, officers seized a replica firearm from the vehicle, which investigators determined to be a pellet gun.

Following the investigation, Nishan Singh, 20, of Brampton, was charged with:

- Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose
- Operation while impaired - alcohol
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Having care or control of a motor vehicle with alcohol readily available
- Fail to properly wear seat belt

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville on March 19, 2026 to answer to the charges.

The involved vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days, and their driver's license was suspended for a period of 90 days.

None of the listed charges have been proven in court.

TRENTON MAN ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER FOLLOWING STABBING OF TWO PEOPLE IN ORANGEVILLE

A 31-year-old man from Trenton, Ont. has been arrested for attempted murder, among other violent charges, following an incident in Orangeville late last week.

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers responded to a call for a disturbance at residence in Orangeville, where they found two people suffering from serious injuries on Feb. 13 around 11 p.m. The OPP's preliminary investigation determined that both victims sustained injuries consistent with a stabbing. One victim was transported to a Toronto-area trauma centre with life threatening injuries, while the other victim's injuries were deemed minor in nature.

An officer with the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police sustained minor injuries while arresting the accused individual.

As a result of the OPP's investigation, Nathan Arsenault, 31, from Trenton, has been charged with:

- Attempt to commit murder
- Assault with a weapon
- Assault a peace officer

The accused was transported to Dufferin Detachment and will be held pending a bail hearing.None of the charges have been proven in court.The police say there is no threat to public safety.

The Dufferin OPP's investigation ongoing, with support from the Nottawasaga OPP Crime Unit.

Anyone with information in relation to this incident is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Callers who wish to remain anonymous, can do so by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS). Tips may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to $2,000.

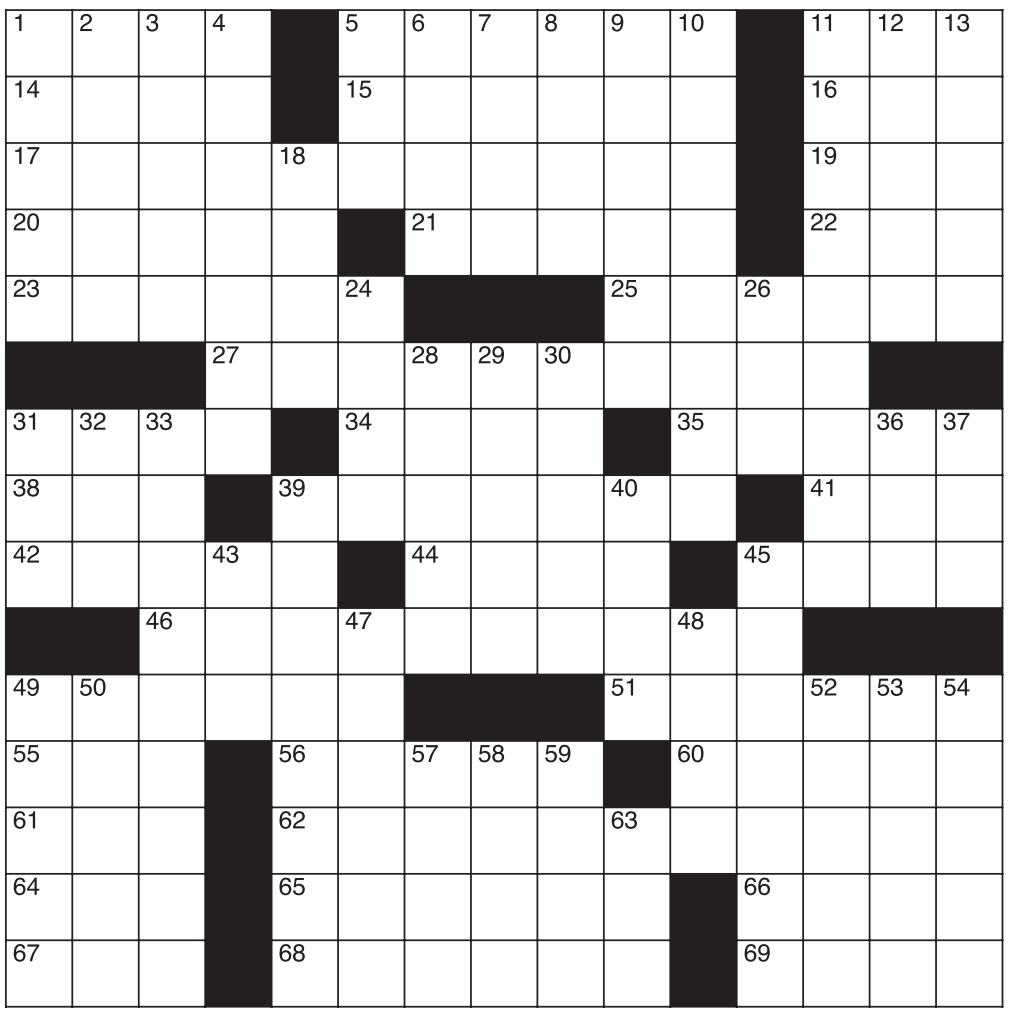



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Puzzle No.

Solution in the classifieds.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Cut quickly
5. A way to state clearly
11. River in NE Scotland
14. Expansive
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame
19. Automobile
20. Toadstools
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Experimented with
25. One-sided
27. Acquisitive
31. Potted plants
34. Everyone has one
35. Kalahari Desert lake
38. Unidentified flying object
39. People 65 and over
41. Small amount
42. Daughter of Acrisius
44. Ornamental box
45. Government agents
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. Treeless plains
55. One's sense of self-importance
56. Consumer advocate
60. Type of lounger
61. Body part
62. Can be persuaded
64. Woman (French)
65. Ready and willing to be taught
66. Arab ruler title
67. Unhappy
68. Gradually went away
69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

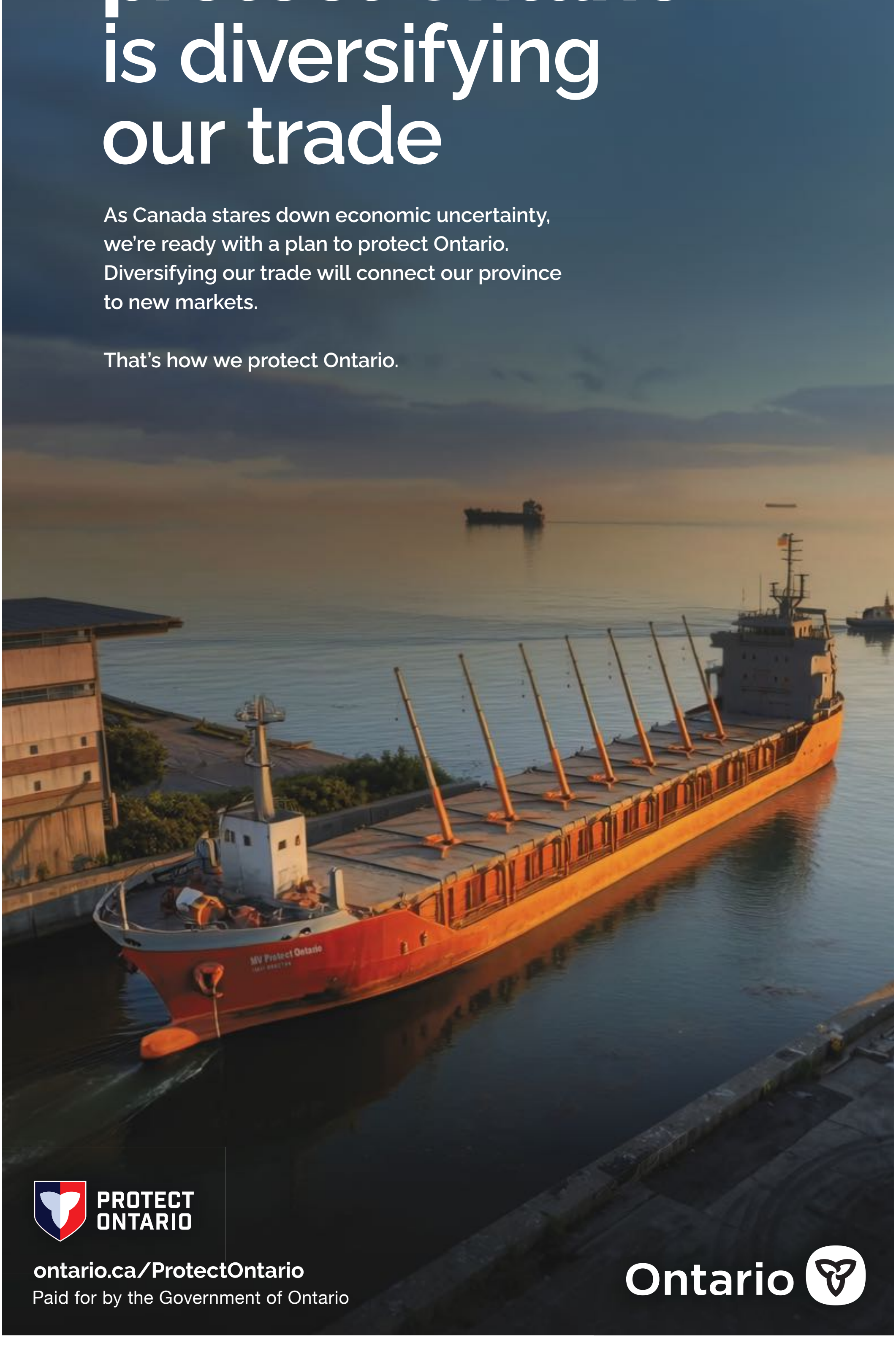
1. Brushed
2. Small water spirit (Germ.)
3. Heroes
4. Monetary units
5. Some don't want to share theirs
6. Free-swimming invertebrate
7. Litigates
8. Outer
9. Parallelograms
10. Uneasy feelings
11. Cross
12. A way to remove
13. Pages can be dog-__
18. Ukrainian city
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Month
28. Hindu queens
29. Group of chemicals
30. Rider of Rohan
31. Wet dirt
32. Southwestern Russia city
33. Observed
36. Angry
37. Drivers' licenses
39. Musical composition
40. Auction
43. They __
45. Women
47. Be filled with love for
48. Thick-soled sock
49. Appears
50. Old World lizard
52. The leading performer
53. Protein
54. "Gunga Din" script writer
57. Art __, around 1920
58. __ Blyton, children's author
59. Abnormal breathing
63. A place to rest

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ARTS & CULTURE

African Inventors and Icons Exhibition comes to venues across Caledon

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

For Black History Month, the Town of Caledon has partnered with the Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum (CMIM) to bring their African Inventors and Icons Exhibition to Caledon.

The exhibition ran on February 7 and 16, and will appear twice more on Feb. 21 at Southfields Community Centre and Feb. 28 at the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness.

The African Inventors and Icons Exhibition is a mobile display that teaches about the contributions Africans have made throughout history, and features inventors from coast to coast here in Canada.

Francis Jeffers is the Head Curator and President of the CMIM, and curated the exhibit.

He shares that CMIM is a multicultural STEM organization that promotes the integration of science within cultures and meaningfully contributes to an existing multicultural society.

They celebrate diversity within the Canadian mosaic/society, and hope to disrupt "the one-dimensional storytelling pattern in STEM, in relation to underrepresented groups in STEM."

Their mission is to inspire, promote, and provide access to science for all Canadians through a diversity lens.

He explains they are truly a nationalist organization, "we celebrate our Canadian-ness, we wear it on our sleeve."

Jeffers says, through their work, they want to show the younger generation that, both in the past and present, Canadians of all demographics are working in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and skilled trades.

Jeffers was born in Dominica, a Caribbean island, and moved to Canada when he was 16.

"It was a turning point in my life because I knew where I wanted to be when I was in the Caribbean, and coming to Canada, it was just new. I had to figure out, what am I going to do in Canada?" says Jeffers.

He chose to pursue a career in science and worked as a biochemist in the pharmaceutical industry.

His second love, he says, is community development and political science, and he wanted to blend the two.



ON DISPLAY – A piece from the African Inventors and Icons Exhibition at the Caledon East Community Complex on February 16 highlighted the work of Dr. Louise Edwards, an astrophysicist who was the first Black Canadian to earn a PhD in astronomy. **RILEY MURPHY PHOTO**



LOCAL EXHIBIT – A display from the African Inventors and Icons Exhibition at the Caledon East Community Complex on February 16 highlights the work of Isaac Olowolafe Jr.
RILEY MURPHY PHOTO

"When I encountered other young Black Canadians who didn't see themselves in a lot of diverse fields, especially in the sciences, that was difficult to cope with and then figure out, what can I do about it?" says Jeffers.

Besides his career in pharmaceuticals, Jeffers ran an organization that provided science clubs to the Toronto Community Housing Corporation. He says not only did many kids not know the history of science, but they didn't see themselves represented in the curriculum.

And so, he created an exhibit showcasing Black inventors from different backgrounds and their inventions, before going to schools to showcase it.

It grew from there, Jeffers explains, as students of different cultures and backgrounds would ask why they couldn't see an exhibit that represented them.

"Any child in Canada should be able to source content that looks at the contributions of their people, whatever that is, and whatever is the intersection of that, so that they can see themselves in that story," he says. "Then they can go ahead and decide whatever story they want to contribute to."

CMIM has held various exhibits, now featuring inventors and innovators from communities such as East Asian, Hispanic and Latin American, Indigenous, Islamic, Jewish, LGBTQ2+, Multicultural women, and many more.

Not only does CMIM share this content through their mobile exhibit at schools and in communities, but also through e-books, flashcards, and social media to reach a broader audience.

Jeffers says they aim to ensure every child can find something about themselves represented in history.

"If we can do that [in] as many communities as possible, in our own little ways, it means that it helps build a better society, and we take away the fear, and the stereotypes that are in social media and in media. Canadians across Canada, coast to coast, need to be able to have those experiences," says Jeffers.

"How do we find nuggets where we can, people can be validated as in terms of their humanity, validated in terms of their consciousness, and their philosophies, and whatever they came with, and validated as a Canadian."

Jeffers encourages the community to come out and learn something new.

"In the stories that they see, they realize that there's a million and one stories like these of Canadians of all different backgrounds, and let's do that for Black History Month," he says. "Take your time and just look at other people, just look to your side, and you'll see the diversity around you."

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Rotary Club of Bolton donates $5,500 to robotics team at Humberview

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On February 9, the Rotary Club of Bolton presented a cheque for $5,500 to the Alpha Dogs, a FIRST robotics team from Humberview Secondary School.

Robert Palmateer is the youth services director for the Rotary Club of Bolton, and he explains that the club has supported the Alpha Dogs for numerous years now, "since day one."

Each year, they try to donate around $5,000 to the Alpha Dogs to support their endeavours.

This year's donation helped the Alpha Dogs cover their anticipated building costs.

"These kids are just amazing, the stuff they can do," says Palmateer.

During the cheque presentation, members of the Rotary Club were given a tour of the facilities by the Alpha Dogs to see what they're working on.

"What they do in their labs and sitting on the computers, designing what they're going to use for their robots, and it's just wonderful to see the kids involved in that kind of effort," says Palmateer.

Last year, the Rotary Club of Bolton helped the Alpha Dogs purchase a 3D printer, which they use to print parts for their robots.

"It's really cool seeing what they do," he says, hoping that the Alpha Dogs are gearing up for another very successful season.

Palmateer says he's happy that their club has been able to support them, and they try to use the money they raise in their fundraising activities in all aspects of the community.

"Young people are important to us and to Rotary generally. Youth is one of the things that Rotary has always helped with."

The club continues to help other youth in the community through their Caledon Kids First program.

The Caledon Kids First Program is a funding program for sports and wellness programs for families in need.

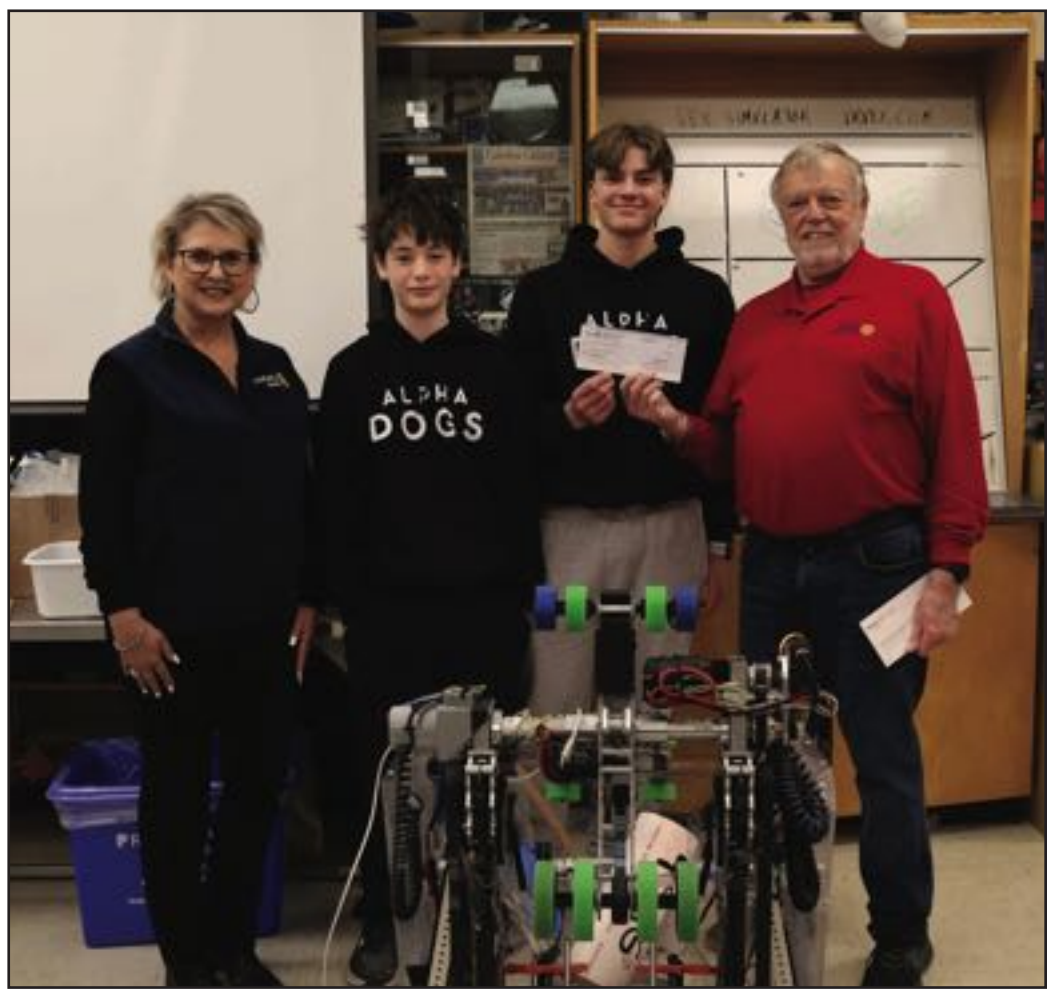
Through the program, Caledon youth have participated in dance, soccer, karate, skating, baseball, hockey, and more. Over the past five-plus years, they have sponsored 200 youth under 18.

Palmateer says that, as much as they can through the program, they don't want to turn anyone away.

Various assessments must be conducted for those who meet the program's requirements, he explains.

"So far, I haven't turned any down on an income basis," he says, explaining that sometimes they can't meet the number that some families are requesting, as they have a maximum amount per family.

Caledon Community Services or school social workers refer eligible families to the program, and the sports organizations are paid directly, ensuring that kids in the community can participate in the things they love.



SUPPORTING STUDENTS – Bolton Rotary presents the Alpha Dogs with a cheque for $5,500 at Humberview Secondary School in Bolton on February 9. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority introduces Snowshoes and Snow-Clues Program

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Strap on your snowshoes, Caledon, because this weekend, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is bringing Snowshoes and Snow-Clues to you.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, two sessions will be held at Dicks Dam Park for community members to enjoy a fun winter outing to track and identify signs of local animals, and to discover how they survive the Winter season.

Those in attendance will also be able to try snowshoeing and leave behind their own tracks.

Suzanne Pragg, program manager of Claireville Programs at TRCA, says that the goal of this program, along with all the programs that they run, is to engage people with nature.

"We offer many of our programs free of charge, allowing participants the opportunity to learn a new skill without financial barriers to access. We focused on Caledon because there are great opportunities for programming with fantastic trails, with natural and historical interest. This program creates a bridge into those spaces for residents of Caledon," she says.

The program this weekend is free and supported by Peel Region.

Pragg notes that connecting to the local natural environment and learning about the species that live there is the start of developing an understanding and appreciation for the land around us.

"Though lots of animals migrate south for the winter to stay warm, many live here year-round, while others migrate here for their wintering grounds. This program provides an opportunity for Caledon residents to discover that an animal's habitat isn't that different from our own," she says.

With the cold weather keeping everyone indoors, Pragg says this is a chance to learn a new skill in the winter.

Those who attend the event will learn the basics and history of snowshoeing, as well as an introduction to Dicks Dam Park and the Humber Valley Heritage Trail, where they will be.

Learning opportunities also include identifying signs of local wildlife.

"Attendees will leave with an appreciation for local nature, and an understanding of why protecting green space is vital to the health of our communities," says Pragg.

For those interested in signing up, come prepared to be outside, as this program is fully outdoors.

Dress for the weather, bringing along toques, scarves, and gloves, and water and snacks if needed.

Layers are recommended to allow participants to respond to changes in body temperature, as this is an active program.

Also, wear winter boots for snowshoeing, and a porta-potty will be available on site.

TRCA also asks that you leave pets at home, except for service animals.

The first session is the Explore Program for ages six and above, and will run from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Explore Program features beginner-friendly snowshoeing instruction and activities, as well as concepts suitable for all ages.

The second session, titled Nature Program, is for ages 13 and above, and will be from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This program will include a two-kilometre snowshoe route along the Humber Valley Heritage Trail, as well as activities and concepts suitable for all ages.



PHOTO PROVIDED BT TRCA

Snowshoes will be provided, but supplies are limited. TRCA asks that you register with the number of adults, youth, and children attending to reserve a pair of snowshoes for your household.

To register, visit https://calendar.trca.ca/event/snowshoes-and-snow-clues-caledon/



BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Flying the friendly skies to an estranged friend

Before I went away to work abroad for a couple of months shortly after I graduated from university, my grandmother had one sage piece of advice.

She wasn't a big fan of the idea of my going to my destination country as it had been torn apart by civil war about a decade-and-a-half before and was still in the process of healing, but if I was determined to go – and I was – she said I had to keep a travel diary and gave me the money to get one.

It was advice that she followed herself, as her expansive diaries she left behind from trips from such locales as Austria, Switzerland, and Tunisia demonstrated in exacting detail, and she was determined I was going to follow her lead.

I should have. Alas.

As I've written in this space previously, I closely immortalized just about every experience I had over the first few days of the trip, but eventually found going above and beyond was taking up no small chunk of time from making new memories, and thought my time would be better spent living the day-to-day.

Great idea? Missed opportunity.

While the broad strokes of the experience are as fresh in my mind today as they've ever been, I've lost some of the finer details over the years, and that's a big regret.

Maybe to atone for this lapse in judgement, whenever I'm away on vacation, as I am now, I try my best to make up for it – perhaps not in as formal a volume as a trip diary, but through notes to myself, snapshots of just about everything, and gathering a memento, no matter how tiny or inconsequential, to keep the memories sharp.

I also like to use the time on the plane productively by writing my column based on what I'm experiencing during the flight.

Chatting with your fellow passengers at the gate before you depart can yield a goldmine of things to write about. Everybody is travelling for a different reason and those reasons vary as wildly as the destinations available from Pearson.

Sometimes, particularly in our current climate, you can see people making political statements with their attire – particularly their t-shirts and hats. These t-shirts and hats are, of course, no more and no less comfortable than other non-political options; one can only assume the fun is to observe people's reactions to whatever inappropriate or hotly-charged slogan you've chosen to sport.

I can't say for certain – I, for one, flew in a t-shirt picked up at and promoting the 2025 Lucille Ball Comedy Festival. Any potential controversy or the odd eyebrow-raise could only come from people who frown on laughter, and I can only hope those people are few and far between.

Sometimes inspiration comes from etiquette – or lack thereof – displayed by fellow passengers in line or on board – like those who think their children screaming at the tops of their lungs in a confined space is the cutest thing ever.

(Spoiler Alert: It's not. Don't get me wrong, I don't begrudge parents travelling with children that cry from time to time, but don't let's pretend it's supposed to be music to our ears or take it as a personal attack when we would rather listen to anything else)

So, ahead of this trip I thought there would be no end to the potential fodder at the airport.

This was set to be my first time flying into the United States since, well, circumstances drastically changed, and going through security, customs, and the whole process would surely provide enough inspiration for three or four columns alone.

Would the customary third degree from customs officials be ramped up to the fourth, fifth, or sixth?

Would officials demand my phone to go through several years' worth of my social media to try and gauge my personal political leanings before letting me in?

After a few quick questions about destination, purpose of trip, and the amount of cash I was bringing into the country, I was waved through – grateful for a brief process, but kind of annoyed they gave me nothing to write about.

A similar experience happened at the gate. That is to say not much.

Again, the same thing on the plane. There was not a screaming child to be found.

Instead, almost the entirety of my very economical section of the plane was filled by dozens and dozens of seniors headed to Panama. So far, so nothing – except for one verbal brouhaha from one of the cruise-goers towards a mother and son sitting next to her which illustrated no generation has a monopoly on empathy.

For a writer, it wasn't the most fruitful of missions but I was glad that even though the final destination was California, a state that is generally pretty stable at the present time, nothing of the travel experience had changed too dramatically since the last time we were out here.

Despite any selfish disappointment I may have felt as a writer, I was surely relieved as a visitor.

As we settled in with the friends hosting us for the first few days of the trip, the point was underscored.

The friends in question are amongst my oldest and dearest, with one of the most enduring friendships being with one who settled in the United States nearly 20 years ago after meeting an American and starting a family.

Over the years, she has apparently become a go-to person for the media in her native country to get the inside scoop on what living in the United States is "really" like, particularly from the expatriate perspective.

Wildfires raging out of control? They give her a call for perspective.

Something goes down between her home country and her adoptive country? A phone call or a video link usually aren't too far away.

Thoughts on the overall political situation in the country? Dial 'er up!

Some of the questions she's fielded, particularly as mercury in the United States' political thermometer is practically shooting through the tube, have become increasingly negative, dour, and not necessarily reflective of her day-to-day reality.

People aren't tapped into the news cycle or their favourite social media pundits 24 hours a day, seven days a week? They're shocked. Kids are still walking to school as normal? Wow. You don't think of one specific man and his antic du jour at every waking moment of your life? Colour them stunned.

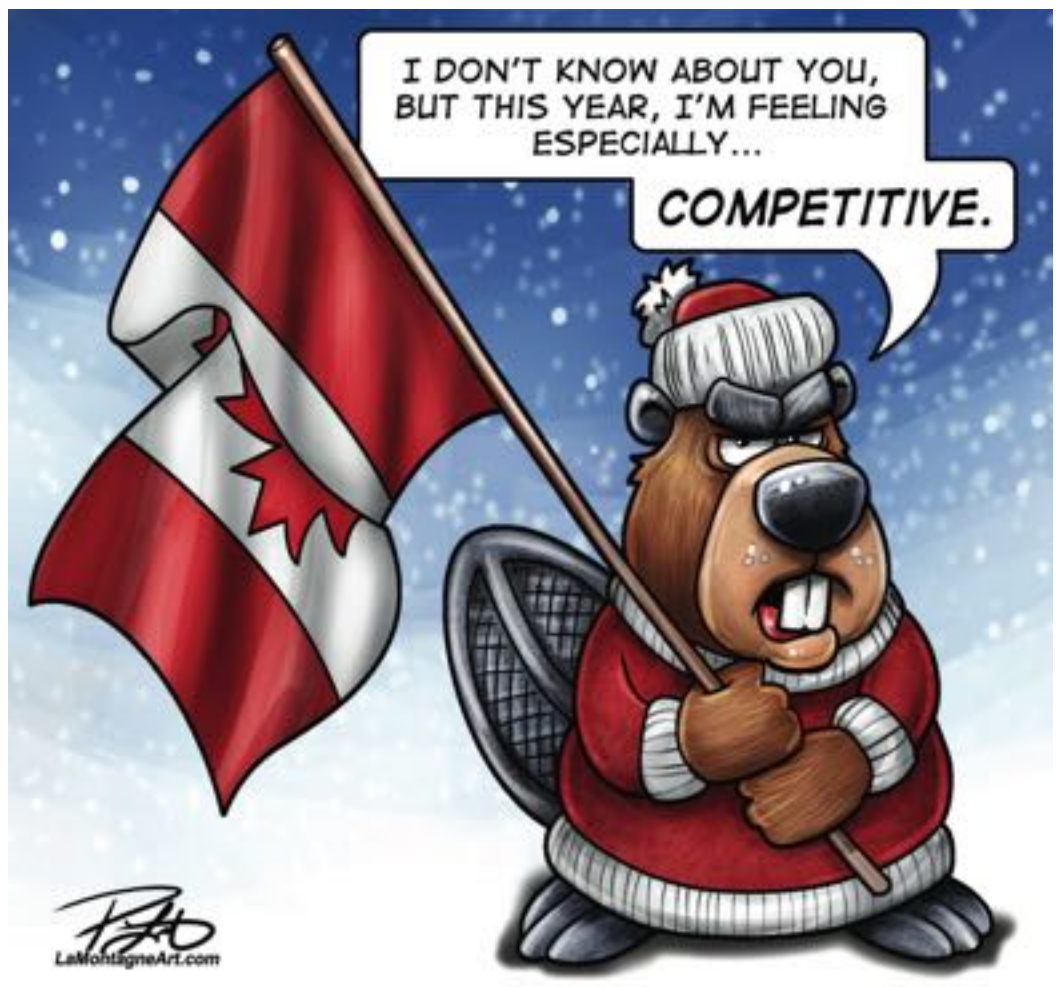
One question – a statement, really – really stuck out: "We didn't think you could still go and enjoy a picnic and listen to music in the park." Huh?

I'm not sure what vision they had in mind, but it apparently it was wide off the mark.

So were mine.

And I'm glad I experienced it for myself.

I can't say I'll ever resume being a regular visitor to the United States again until relations between our countries are repaired or significant changes unfold that allow another healing process to truly begin, but I'm glad to have had an authentic experience – even if it might be an experience limited to this more small-L liberal state – and see it for myself.



Fees, charges, red tape tangle us all

by Mark Pavilons



It's been suggested that taxpayers shouldn't have to wait in line or on hold simply to untangle bureaucratic red tape.

And we shouldn't have to pay for it, either.

While technology has opened up avenues to contact various officials and agencies, I think there's an unseen noodle-like network where individual requests go to die.

The Province, through its Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act, 2025, vowed to cut red tape to make Ontario the most competitive place in the G7 to invest, create jobs and do business.

The legislation was part of the 2025 "Red Tape Reduction Package" that contains over 50 "common-sense changes to improve services, keep costs down and protect Ontario's economy.

"In the face of the ongoing threat of U.S. tariffs, our government is taking action to protect Ontario so we can keep workers on the job, attract new investment and make life easier and more affordable for Ontario families," said Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Red Tape Reduction. "We're protecting Ontario by cutting needless red tape, keeping costs down, improving service delivery, and creating the right conditions for people and businesses to succeed."

I'm not sure how you keep costs down and improve service delivery at the same time.

A lot of this sounds like backtracking or giving people a retroactive break. You don't have to reimburse the public if you were fair to begin with.

The civil service, it's been said, is like a fortress made of papers, forms and red tape.

And, more and more, we're hearing people say they cannot help us because "it's above their pay grade." That's just a cop-out.

I get calls all the time from people asking for things outside my area of expertise. And yet, I will try my best to get an answer or direct them to the best source. Why wouldn't I spend an extra five or 10 minutes trying to help?

Fees, fines and charges are dwindling our resources. I recently heard that missed mortgage payments have quadrupled. Toronto issued $2 million in parking fines in recent weeks. The taxpayers' well is running dry.

The writing is not only on the wall, it's as plain as day. We're all stretched, and some of these added fees may be the straws breaking camels' backs.

We have to keep an eye on our accounts, lest we be overcharged. BMO paid back almost $4 million because it overcharged customers and failed to tell them about certain fees.

Many retailers are guilty of "dip pricing" – basically, the price you see is not the price you pay after adding on all the "extras."

Apparently, there's a lot of that going around.

I also love government websites that have a pop-up asking if our questions were answered. Who goes through the thousands of negative responses to this? Some bot?

A recent trip to the airport to drop off my daughter revealed more fees and charges. A whopping $42 for parking for two hours. There was also GST tacked on? Why are we paying tax on an arbitrary charge for self-service parking on taxpayer-owned land?

When glancing at my daughter's plane ticket, I noticed a fee for using her credit card to pay for the ticket(!), and an airport improvement fee. I can only imagine the revenue this generates if each and every person who goes through Pearson pays it every day. Just what kind of improvements are we paying for that the feds won't?

When looking at my other daughter's college tuition, there are fees for such things as use of the athletic centre. It's not optional but mandatory, regardless of whether you ever step foot in the place.

I recently had an issue with CBSA and some ransacked packages. It took me more than an hour searching for a way to contact them via email, and nothing. A note from Canada Post said CBSA doesn't answer to anyone, and that they are virtually "untouchable." Okay, Canada Post comments may be a bit subjective, but wow.

For my treatments at Newmarket's Stronach Regional Cancer Centre, I have to get a parking pass or dish out $20 a day for the privilege of parking. While my treatments and medications are covered, there's still the gas and wear and tear on the car for all the travelling. When I went to the city, there was parking and TTC fares.

I believe parking at hospitals for the critically ill, or those receiving life-saving treatment, should be either free or subsidized. I don't think that's too much to ask.

Okay, I understand hospitals receive some much-needed revenue from this, but I think fairer rates should apply. I paid $28 at Sunnybrook during a two-hour visit.

My wife and I, and my in-laws, all had to deal with recent appliance failures and replacements. We opted for the "extended warranty" – a couple of hundred dollars of "insurance."

We have this mindset that this "charge" is money well spent, but I'm not sure. It's limited, and typically, nothing should fail on a new appliance within the first two years. However, we heard from both a repairman and a salesman that modern refrigerators last roughly six years today!

Most of us Boomers are familiar with our parents' almond or yellow washers, dryers and stoves – some pushing 20 to 30 years of service!

What has changed?

Many of us have ongoing issues with our internet or cable service providers, waiting on hold for someone to answer. I tend to opt for the call-back feature, anxiously awaiting someone to reach out. For what we spend on our TV, internet and cell phones, you'd think the quality of service would be top-notch.

As grocery and gas prices remain at all-time highs, average taxpayers are finding it harder to get ahead. Getting nickled and dimed by endless service charges and fees only compounds the plight of the "common man."

And by the way, someone is making a lot of money ever since the penny was discontinued.

Just saying.



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Are we there yet?

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



Much like an eight-year-old in the back seat of the longest car ride ever, Canadians are just about done.

We're screaming into the void, "Are we there yet?" "There" is spring. "There" is where a moment of respite arrives just in the nick of time, before many of us actually do make good on the threat to "lose our ever-loving minds" due to the sheer volume of snow, and beyond frigid temperatures that have pegged this winter as one of the worst ever."

"There" is our just reward for enduring the marathon that is winter, and "there" can't come soon enough.

It's about this time of year, I think, that many of us start to feel the same way. We're proud Canadians, sure, and even more so right now as the Olympics help to remind us of all that is good about our country, and how, as a nation, we can't help but feel pride seeing our athletes on the podium while the national anthem plays.

But the fact is, we're pooped. Even those of you who like snow because you ski, or snowmobile, or ice fish, must surely agree that you are tired of shovelling it and/or slipping on ice. Don't even get me started on trying to scale the mountains of piled-up sludge in grocery store parking lots as we try to push a buggy with perennially locked wheels through the build-up.

Also, unrelated and who am I to judge, but ice-fishing? Sitting outside, in the freezing cold, over a hole in the ice, hoping for a "bite" as you endure biting wind? Sounds frigid, futile and frustrating to me!

I'm so fed up with trying to put a "brave" face on winter that I've caught myself on those rare days when the sun is actually shining practically pouncing on neighbours during my morning dog walk saying inane things like, "at least it's sunny out today!" as if this is some kind of a balm to our mutually defeated spirits.

As if the sun suddenly makes winter more bearable. I mean, it does, but barely.

For perspective, you know where else it's sunny? The Bahamas. Jamaica. Probably Curacao. Literally any place south of the 30th parallel.

I'd rather be there. Probably you would too.

I feel, at least for me, that this winter has been longer than ever, not just because of the sheer volume of snow and the particularly bitter cold days, but because there's just so darn much happening in Caledon right now that seems to echo the weather.

Winter temperatures are frostbitten and frigid, much like the current temperature of the relationships on council and its perennial 5-4 vote-splitting pattern.

Winter is demoralizing, much like the behaviour of the current integrity commissioner and the ongoing battle with certain members of council.

Winter weather is wreaking havoc on the land, much like proposed blasting quarries; threats to groundwater, threatened lakes, and the threatened extinction of brook trout will wreak havoc across Caledon.

Finally (and only because I have to stop somewhere, but I could just as easily go on and on) winter is dismal and dark, making travel treacherous, adding to the already hazardous road conditions residents face each and every day as we navigate around gravel trucks, illegal truck yards and the sheer volume of trucks travelling routes like Highway #50 south of Mayfield Rd. every day.

Oh yes, and on that note, decimating what's left of Caledon's farmland to build a highway to nowhere won't solve that particular issue.

Unlike winter, which will end, and probably sooner than later, I'm less optimistic that the many issues facing Caledon and its residents will resolve anytime soon. Are we "there" yet? It depends on what we're talking about.

Yes, spring is just around the corner and brighter days are ahead weather-wise, but for Caledon?

Like that famous early 1990s movie, we might be facing an endless Groundhog Day; one issue after another continuing to rear its ugly head up over the snowbanks, casting shadows that will loom large and long over the Caledon landscape.

Shadows that not even the 2026 municipal election might be able to dispel.

*Oh the irony! I just finished typing this column and checked the weather. A "high impact storm system is set to arrive in the GTA." As Charlie Brown might say, "Good Grief!"

Additional tools for enhanced CMV enforcement in Caledon

MAYOR ANNETTE GROVES
MAYOR GROVES' COLUMN



Keeping Caledon's roads safe and in good condition is a priority for our community. Our residents, businesses, and visitors want a roadway network that is reliable and safe. I recently brought forward a motion for the Town to acquire portable HAENNI scales to help strengthen Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) enforcement within Caledon.

Caledon sees a high volume of commercial motor vehicle traffic each day, including vehicles travelling through the municipality as well as those making local deliveries and servicing our community. As our Town continues to grow, so does the responsibility to ensure that our roads are used safely and that enforcement efforts keep pace with traffic on our roads. Consistent, visible, and effective CMV enforcement plays an important role in protecting both the public and our local infrastructure.

The Caledon Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment is supported by two dedicated officers who are trained as Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) inspectors and who work diligently to carry out CMV enforcement. Providing these officers with additional tools would better support their efforts and help them more effectively address safety concerns related to overweight and unsafe commercial vehicles operating in our community.

The additional portable HAENNI scales would give officers the ability to accurately assess vehicle weights right at the roadside, rather than relying solely on fixed scale locations. This added flexibility is especially important, as overweight or improperly loaded vehicles can pose serious safety risks to other road users and contribute to the premature deterioration of roads and infrastructure that residents rely on.

The use of portable scales would help advance several key goals for the community, including:

Enhancing roadway safety by identifying unsafe or non-compliant commercial motor vehicles

Allowing for more timely and efficient on-site inspections

Reducing unnecessary wear and damage to municipal roads and infrastructure

Supporting consistent, visible enforcement throughout Caledon

Making the best possible use of existing CVSA-trained officers serving our community

By building on existing expertise and established enforcement programs, this equipment would provide real, measurable benefits for the community.

The scales would be used during targeted CMV enforcement initiatives and in response to identified needs across the municipality, helping to ensure Caledon's roads remain safe for everyone.

Thanks to 100 Women Who Care Caledon, Palgrave Community Cooking Club continues to make a difference

The "Community Cooking Club" has been meeting in the Palgrave United Church commercial kitchen for two years now. The club is a collaboration between Gratitude for Food Caledon, a subcommittee of ecoCaledon, and the Palgrave United Community Kitchen (PUCK).

The purpose of the club is to bring community members together to cook healthy plant-based meals, package them in serving-size containers, and donate them to the Exchange.

Since its initial funding from a 100 Women Who Care (Caledon) grant in 2023, the direct costs have been subsidized by a private grant and by the Peel Public Health Healthy Living Grant. In November 2025, 100 Women Who Care voted to support the Cooking Club again, allowing the club to run through most of 2026.

The Cooking Club is led by Carolyn Vallejo and Lucrezia Chiappetta, co-chairs of ecoCaledon's Gratitude for Food subcommittee. The members are a roster of cooks with varying experience who gather to learn new recipes and make new friends.

Carolyn loves the opportunity to connect with community members and chat and laugh while cooking a healthy meal.

"It's a plant-based meal, and it's economical, it's easy, and then we get to share it with the rest of the community," she says.

The group produces approximately 50-60 individual servings per month. Since its inception, over 1,200 servings have been donated to the Exchange Food Bank.

The club meets on the last Thursday of every month, excluding July and August. Those interested in finding out more about the club or attending a future meeting can indicate their interest by emailing info@ecocaledon.org.



CARING FOR CALEDON – 100 Women Who Care Caledon (100WWCC) has been supporting local charities and groups in Caledon since 2017, including the Cooking Club run by Palgrave United Community Kitchen (PUCK). In 2025, 100WWCC chose to support the Cooking Club once again, allowing PUCK to continue cooking meals to donate to the Caledon Community Services Food Bank and the Exchange. **RILEY MURPHY PHOTO**

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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.*

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BUSINESS

YOUR SOURCE FOR BUSINESS IN CALEDON

Bridging the gap: Women Focus Canada looks to grow Caledon partnership

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Women Focus Canada, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women and girls through resources, advocacy and community support, is looking to grow into the Caledon community, and they're starting with their Youth Civic Engagement Program (YCEP).

Dr. Oluremi (Remi) Adewale founded Women Focus Canada in January 2018.

Adewale is a health care provider in Canada with over 24 years of experience, and she says that supporting grassroots is a passion for her.

"I noticed that many women and young people have the passion and the talents and ideas to lead and thrive, but they're lacking access to the system, access to the right networking, access to opportunity, and decision-making spaces," says Adewale. "What started as grassroots many years ago, supporting work has really evolved into a structured organization, focused on empowerment."

Since then, they have led numerous empowerment, economic development, leadership development, and civic engagement programs.

In 2022, they began YCEP, a structured civic engagement program that Adewale says has now been scaled up across different communities.

The YCEP is described as a "leadership launchpad" where Women Focus Canada invites youth in the community to explore how they can make change in their own communities.

"It's encouraging, knowing that we have a platform for women, for youth, for individuals, for community members, to come and to learn and to network and to have mentorship opportunities," she says.

Statistically, Adewale says that young women are less interested in civic-related work, and they see a gap in civic education and access for youth.

"From the testimonials that we have received and heard, we know that it has helped youth to build confidence, to understand a governor's system, and see themselves as capable contributors to public life," says Adewale. "Youth have moved from feeling excluded from civic spaces to feeling involved, welcome, and empowered to engage."

For Adewale, she knew she wanted to bring their programs to local communities.

"We know that change happens locally," she says.

Adding that residents often feel disconnected from the processes of deciding on opportunities and services for municipalities.

"They're not sure of the right space, they're not invited to sit at the table," says Adewale.

"Bringing Women Focus Canada into local communities like Brampton, like Caledon, allows us to meet people where they're at, and allow us to build on trust, and to equip them with the tools to engage meaningfully in leadership, economic opportunity, and civic life."

In 2023, Women Focus Canada held youth civic engagement across the GTA, but last year, they decided to focus more on certain regions.

And so, they invited youth from Brampton, Mississauga, and Caledon to their engagement programs.

Mayor Annette Groves spoke at one of these panels, engaging local youth.

"The Town of Caledon recognizes that young people are not just the future leaders. They are present contributors," says Adewale.

"Our conversation really aligned around creating real safe access for youth to see how local government works and to feel welcome into those spaces. That alignment made this partnership a very natural fit, you know, for us as the organizer, for the youth that we support, and we're happy to have this opportunity."

Earlier in February, Women Focus Canada held their YCEP 2026, with a theme of turning passion into public impact, in partnership with Caledon at the Caledon East Community Complex, with Groves as the keynote speaker.

During their event on the 3rd, Women Focus Canada held a fireside chat and panel discussion, where youth could hear real stories and strategies from community leaders.

They were also invited to attend a Caledon Council meeting, where they could see first-hand how decisions are made across the municipality.

"We believe that rather than just talking about civic engagement, we can do a lot of theoretical knowledge, sharing information. But, we also want to allow the youth themselves to experience it for some, seeing how decisions are made and how their voices do matter," she says.



EMPOWERING WOMEN – Members from the Town of Caledon and Women Focus Canada came together for this year's YCEP 2026 on February 3. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

At Council, Adewale also gave a presentation demonstrating how they plan to provide a platform for youth, not only in Caledon but across Canada.

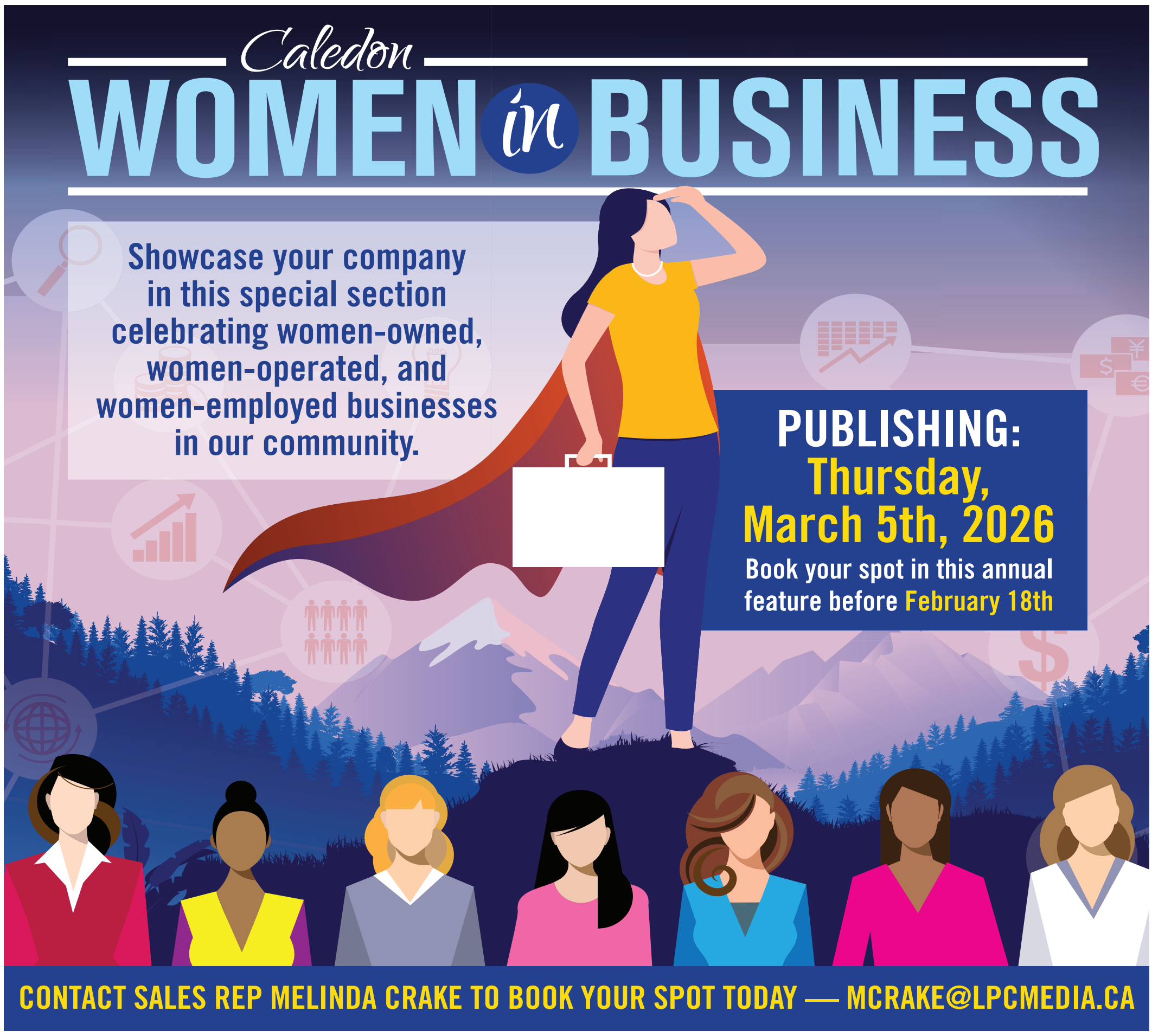
For those in Caledon looking to get involved, Adewale says they encourage youth to stay involved in their YCEP programs, participate in civic forums, volunteer in their different communities, engage with their political leaders, and take advantage of local decision-making opportunities.

"Civic engagement doesn't start with holding office, it starts with showing up, asking questions and understanding how your community works," she says. "We want the youth to bring ideas, to sit at the table, to be involved, to ask questions, to lead, to be innovative in their ideas, to go to their community leaders, civic leaders, you know, political leaders, and bring innovative ideas to them."

Women Focus Canada is looking to expand its presence in the Caledon community by collaborating with various organizations and groups.

"There's a lot more that needs to be done, and we cannot do this alone. We really want to collaborate," says Adewale, adding that Women Focus Canada is looking for like-minded groups in communities to connect.

Adewale says they look forward to furthering these partnerships with Caledon groups to better serve and support the community, "it's important to us."



As the planet continues to heat up, water worries only worsen

BY DAVID SUZUKI

A tiny tardigrade can survive for more than 30 years without water. But we humans aren't nearly as tough as this half-millimetre-long, eight-legged critter, also known as a "water bear." We perish after a few days if we don't replenish the liquid that we constantly lose through urine, sweat, tears, feces and breath. After all, our bodies are made up of about 60 to 70 per cent water.

As an Outside article explains, "Losing more than five percent of your body weight in fluid leads to headaches and other symptoms. Ten percent impairs performance and leaves you dizzy and faint. Beyond that, your skin will start to shrivel, your blood will get dangerously salty, and eventually you'll be at risk of critically low blood pressure and organ failure. At 15 to 20 percent, which you can reach in three days in a hot climate, you'll die."

Here in the relatively wealthy Western world, we often take clean water for granted. We just turn on a tap and out it comes, hot or cold and usually drinkable. But many people throughout the world suffer from water scarcity, contamination and poor or non-existent infrastructure — including many living on Indigenous reserves in Canada.

As we continue to heat the planet by burning coal, oil and gas and pumping ever more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, we face snowballing threats to water quality and quantity. The increasing floods, droughts, fires, sea level rise, glacier melt, and extreme heat resulting from human-caused global heating all affect water availability and purity.

Much of our water is captured and filtered by forested lands. Destruction of those forests through logging or wildfires releases more climate-altering carbon into the atmosphere, as trees and root systems sequester carbon. But it also reduces water availability, and fires pollute water, especially when they reach houses and towns, burning plastics and other toxic materials.

Flooding brings more water, but it can also contaminate it and wreak havoc on supplies and sewage systems. As glaciers melt and mountain snowpack decreases, less is stored, and rivers start to run dry. Flooding, like drought, can also affect agriculture, leading to food shortages.

Higher temperatures, agricultural runoff and contaminated stormwater also facilitate algal blooms in freshwater, making it unsafe for drinking or even swimming. As sea levels rise and rivers lose volume, more saltwater travels upstream, affecting potable supplies.

The United Nations reports that the world is now entering an era of "global water bankruptcy," with "irreversible losses of natural water capital and an inability to bounce back to historic baselines."

Many places have been facing water problems for years, through scarcity, lack of safe drinking water and poor infrastructure — worsening as the planet heats.

The growing crisis around water is also causing conflict to rise. The U.S.–based Pacific Institute reports that water-related violence has doubled since 2022.

Solutions to our growing water woes aren't much different than the remedies for many other pollution- and climate-related problems. We need to pull together, implement legal reforms around water and climate, devise economic and political systems that don't rely on destruction and put our efforts into protecting water sources and building infrastructure to ensure everyone has access to clean water.

Unfortunately, this would take a longer-term vision, along with a sense of caring for each other — something that appears to be lacking among many of our political representatives and those who profit from exploitation.

We often hear that humans are destroying the planet, but really, we're just destroying the natural systems that make it habitable for us (and many other living beings). The tardigrade will likely still be here when we and all the money we've made through pillaging nature are gone. It's not too late to prevent that, but we must act quickly.

Caledon Town Crier Andrew Welch rings out final cry after serving in the role for 15 years

Continued from Page A3

Welch is also now the chair of the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome, a non-governmental organization dedicated to debate and action on global issues.

Over the past 15 years, Welch has been extremely busy not just as an established author, but as Town Crier for the Town of Orangeville in Dufferin County, the Town of Erin in Wellington County, and for the cities of Brampton and Mississauga.

When Welch set out to become the town crier for Caledon in 2011, he says he went into it partially for the writing aspect, being able to twist and turn words to create the perfect cry for each occasion.

Reflecting on his first appearance, sometimes it appears that the calling comes for you and not the other way around.

In 2010, Welch was reading Charles Dickens in a pub, and the entire crowd stopped to listen.

An onlooker turned to Welch and said, "You should be a town crier!"

At the time, Orangeville had a town crier, but Caledon did not.

Auditioning for the role, Welch was brought into a hockey arena to show off his "cry" for a panel of judges.

"I delivered that proclamation, and they said, 'Great, well, we'll score you against the other candidates. There are none, so I guess you're okay," Welch retells the story, laughing.

Upon Welch's appointment, he says it all then came together quite quickly, including a mad dash to have his regalia ready for his first cry.

Although he is now well known for his current livery, this was not his original outfit.

Welch initially borrowed pieces from local theatre contacts, added a few more from his own collection, may or may not have taken a small handbell from the local school, and with a winter coat of his wife's, created something for his first few events.

Unbeknownst to him, criers usually have a summer and a winter outfit, and Welch's original outfit was made entirely of wool, earning him a few laughs from other criers at a gathering set in the warmer months.

After his first thrown-together outfit, Welch took the time and care to establish the two well-known pieces we know today, a winter and summer version.

Although he had never made anything himself before this, Welch set out to make his regalia himself.

Welch wanted to incorporate various elements of Caledon into his livery, including green, as the "greenest town in Ontario," and golf leaf motifs symbolizing Caledon's ties to nature.

He even sought outside counsel, turning to Peter Twist, a renowned expert in period military uniforms, regalia, and more; he was even an advisor on the Pirates of the Caribbean movie series.

Welch even initially did a watercolour of what he intended his uniform to look like.

"I did a lot of theatre, and I did set design for theatre and that kind of thing. But in terms of artwork, no particular inclination," says Welch. "I don't paint unless I'm solving a problem."

He has since adorned this regalia to hundreds of cries, including those at competitions.

Competitions for town criers are judged events where official criers display their skills in proclamation delivery, voice projection, and period-accurate costuming.

Welch has won numerous competitions over the years, including second place at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Town Crier Competition in June 2012, Best Ambassador in 2013, the overall winner at the Ontario Provincial Championship in Perth in 2016, and first place again on Amherst Island in 2018.

Looking back on 15 years as Caledon's Town Crier, Welch says he's unsure whether it went by fast or slowly.

Thinking about his cries over the past years, Welch adds they haven't changed all that much, often writing in limericks and keeping things quite humorous.

Reflecting on his career brings standout moments and cries for Welch, some of which include his Walk of Fame cry for Johnny Wayne, of Wayne and Shuster, where he implemented numerous elements of the show. Another is his cry that took a cue from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream".

One standout moment for Welch, his favourite cry, brings him back to the pandemic, when criers had little work due to the lack of gatherings.

He explains he began offering free cries for those celebrating milestone birthdays during COVID-19.

A woman contacted him, explaining that her father, who was turning 80 and not very mobile, was on the ninth floor of his apartment building and asked if Welch could stand in the parking lot and provide a cry for him.

When Welch began the cry, standing in that parking lot with the man on his balcony, other residents and neighbours came out onto their own balconies.

The whole building began cheering and clapping for the birthday celebration.

"She contacted me maybe two or three months later to say that he had passed. But that's all he talked about for the last three months was his 80th birthday and this big moment where all of the community was applauding him," says Welch. "That's a great moment."

The step down from his position does not mean he's hanging up the regalia for good; Welch will still be available to cry for special civic ceremonies, local organizations, and non-profits upon request. Town crier isn't the only thing he's stepping aside from; he left Canadian Red Cross disaster management, and no longer teaches search and rescue in Dufferin, making room for new pathways and opportunities in his life.

Leaving this role, he's looking back at an amazing career, featuring over a thousand cries and over 20 competitions.

His final official cry for the Town of Caledon may be over, but something tells us Andrew Welch will never quite be able to whisper at a community event.

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



Interim Property Taxes are Due

MARCH 5

Property taxes are due **March 5, 2026**.
Regular late payment fees apply.
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OPEN HOUSE | HAVE YOUR SAY

New Entrance By-law

The Town of Caledon is hosting an Open House to share a proposed new Entrance By-law, which outlines updated standards and procedures for creating or modifying entrances onto municipal roads.

DATE & TIME:
Thursday, March 12, 2026
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
Community Room, Caledon East Community Complex (CECC) – 6215 Old Church Road, Caledon East

Residents are encouraged to attend and learn more about the proposed by-law and speak directly with Town staff.

Feedback can also be submitted online at: **www.haveyoursaycaledon.ca/entrancebylaw**.

Those wishing to provide formal input may do so by delegating to Council when the by-law is considered at an upcoming General Committee meeting. The staff report and draft by-law will be available as part of the meeting agenda on the Town's website.

CONTACT:
legal@caledon.ca

OPEN HOUSE | HAVE YOUR SAY

Special Events By-law and permit process

The Town of Caledon is proposing a Special Events By-law and permit process to ensure temporary public events on private property follow clear protocols and comply with zoning and land use regulations.

Why a Special Events By-law?

The Town is seeing an increased interest in hosting public events. The Town aims to establish clear requirements for large events to proactively address and improve any potential community impacts through the proposed Special Events By-law.

Open House: Wednesday, March 11 from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
at the Caledon East Community Centre (Banquet Hall)

Participate Online: Submit your feedback by March 13 at
haveyoursaycaledon.ca/special-events-bylaw

REGISTER FOR DROP-INS ONLINE

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SPORTS



Admirals split two pivotal OJHL games , keeping playoff hopes alive

BY JIM STEWART

The Caledon Admirals continued their late-season push for a playoff spot with a timely 5-1 triumph over the Wellington Dukes in Prince Edward County last Tuesday afternoon.

Admirals' netminder James Meredith — who has turned in his fair share of heroic efforts between the pipes this season for Caledon — stopped 26 of 27 shots to earn the much-needed road win.

Meredith delineated the keys to victory versus the sixth-place Dukes: "We played our game. The guys played our systems. Every phase of the game — penalty killing, power play, five on five — all looked good. We scored any way we could, too — on the power play, on the PK, on five-on-five, on four-on-four. It showed our resilience, especially after being on the road for over six hours to get there. We played our game for the entire sixty minutes."

When asked about his own "Third Star of the Game" performance against Wellington, the articulate and modest goaltender heaped praise on his teammates for playing such a sound defensive game: "It was one of the easiest games I've played. Most importantly, we got the result we needed."

Meredith and Dukes' goaltender Royden Smith kept the shooters from both sides off the scoreboard in a goalless first period.

Power forward Jalen Lobo broke the scoreless tie when he lit the lamp at 5:31 of the middle frame to give the Admirals a 1-0 lead.

Zachary Carrier's 31st of the season evened the score when Wellington's power play clicked at 8:11. After surrendering a goal to the high-scoring Carrier, Meredith closed the door on the playoff-bound Dukes the rest of the way.

Six minutes after Carrier tied it 1-1, Cam Lang — set up by Captain Braeden Van Gelder — scored the game-winning goal when he beat Smith to restore Caledon's one-goal lead.

Clarence Allain's power play marker — assisted by Lang and Ronan Clarke — made it 3-1 with 58 seconds left in the second period.

Van Gelder's goal at 6:45 of the final frame gave Caledon a commanding three-goal margin.

With 28 seconds left on the clock, Curtis Freeman's shortie provided the margin of victory for The Fleet.

Last Thursday's tilt at Mayfield was an old-fashioned, knock 'em down, drag 'em out 'four-point game' pitting the eighth-place Chargers and the ninth-place Admirals. Caledon looked ready for their rematch versus Mississauga — the team they're chasing for the final playoff spot in the OJHL West.

However, Chargers' defenseman Chase McNamara lit the lamp twice in the opening period to give the black-clad visitors a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes of play.

The Chargers opened the second period on a three-minute power play, but the stellar play of Meredith stymied the hard-charging Mississauga club, and he performed as his team's best penalty killer. The athletic goaltender turned aside 18 shots in the middle frame to keep the Admirals in the game.

After the scoreless second, the gold and burgundy-clad Caledon club opened the third period on the power play, but it was Meredith who was tested again. He rebuffed Tyler Hinde's clear-cut breakaway and flashed the leather ten minutes later to keep the Chargers from adding to their two-goal lead.

After Admirals' centre, Jack Fang, was mugged in the neutral zone with 7:35 left in the game, the home side's power play took to the ice, but it was the Chargers who scored the decisive goal. On the PK, Mason Kim rifled his 21st goal of the season when he burst in off the right wing and rifled the puck high glove side past Meredith.

The never-say-die esprit de corps of the Admirals was evident in the final scoring play of the game. Joseph Zoldos tipped the puck past Leonard to get the Fleet on the scoreboard with 11.2 seconds left — finishing a three-way passing play initiated by Captain Braeden Van Gelder's spirited, game-ending rink-long rush during which he fed prodigious playmaker Clarence Allain. A melee ensued after the Admirals' goal — a fitting end to a penalty-filled final period of play in a hotly contested hockey game.



PROTECT THE NET – Caledon goaltender James Meredith (1) turned in two strong performances versus Wellington and Burlington.

JIM STEWART PHOTO

Meredith — who turned in a masterful 37-save performance between the pipes versus the Chargers — was gracious in defeat after Thursday night's tough loss: "They were the better team tonight. They were harder on the puck and played a heavy game. They deserved the win."

The positive puckstopper complimented his teammates' final valiant charge up the ice in a 3-0 game: "We just kept playing hard. We never gave up — even if it was a three-goal game at that point. It was a good rush to end the game. I'm happy for Joe that he got the goal."

Meredith and his teammates have been instrumental in resurrecting the fortunes of the Caledon Admirals franchise. The team's play improved in the second half of 2024-25 after a historically bad start, but Caledon's steady climb up the standings in 2025-26 under the direction of veteran Head Coach Joe Washkurak has been fun to watch. The fact that the Admirals are still fighting tooth and nail for a playoff spot speaks volumes about how far the OJHL franchise has improved in a year.

Tough games are ahead for The Fleet versus Trenton on Friday and in Buffalo on Sunday, but the remarkable improvement of Coach Washkurak's Caledon Admirals is one of the 'feel-good stories' in the OJHL this season.



WINNING WINTER CLASSIC – The U14AA Caledon Hawks continued their winning ways this season by capturing the 2026 Halton Hills Winter Classic tournament. The Hawks rallied to defeat the Mississauga Terriers 7-5 in the championship final. The Halton Hills Winter Classic tournament champs are Adriano Diamantakos, Colton Meyer, Paolo Cirillo, Sebastian Lima, Charlie Rosa Gastaldo, Lucas Hughes, Ben Hughes, Hudson Goverde, Jack Perry, Anthony Natale, Colton Stewart, Cameron Tait, Rogan Waters, Reece McCrimmon, Kade Downey, Nicholas Adsett, Nathan Pagliuca, and Jacob Schutz. The championship-winning coaching staff is comprised of Jim Schutz, Paul Lima, Luigi Pagliuca, Duncan Stewart, and Scott McCrimmon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kristin Della Rovere leads Team Italy to win over France to open Winter Olympics in Milan

BY JIM STEWART

Caledon East Kristin Della Rovere scored a goal and an assist in Team Italy's 4-1 win over France in the opening round of the Winter Olympics at the Milano Santaguilia Ice Hockey Arena on Thursday.

Della Rovere also drew a penalty in the contest — inspiring her Godmother, Mira Dimovski Budd, to post on Facebook that her Goddaughter not only "score[d] Her First OLYMPIC GOAL", but she also earned a "Gordie Howe Hat Trick — one assist, one goal, and one penalty."

The amusing post featured footage of Della Rovere's first goal at the Olympics — Italy's fourth of the game – that sealed the deal versus France.

Although a Gordie Howe Hat Trick is comprised of a goal, an assist, and a fight, fighting at an IIHF-sanctioned event earns the pugilist an automatic game misconduct, and Della Rovere's professional presence on the ice was needed by Italy.

Della Rovere is Team Italy's only PWHL representative. The current Toronto Sceptre and former Ottawa Charge player assisted on Rebecca Roccella's second-period goal to help propel Italy to its big home ice win.

After the dramatic three-goal victory over France, Della Rovere's squad fell 6-1 to Team Sweden in Game 2 on Saturday. The Caledon East native was gracious in defeat during her post-game interview with IIHF beat writer Andrew Podnieks: "Sweden's a really good hockey team. I think we came out flying and then were on our heels a little bit, but I'm so proud of these girls," she said. "I'm looking forward to the next two games."

Team Italy will face off against Germany and Japan in the final two games of the opening round.



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OBITUARIES

PETER (PETE) HERLIHY



A lover of nature and the arts, his photography showed the viewer a glimpse into the depth and perception that lived within him. Possessed of a calm intellect that never boasted, he willingly shared his incredibly in-depth knowledge of the natural world, the origins of language, and science of life with anyone who was curious.

He instilled a respect for nature in thousands of people over his decades of teaching as an outdoor educator at the Boyne River Natural Science School. This boundless enthusiasm for learning, coupled with his uncanny ability to remember seemingly everything he'd ever been taught in detail over his life earned him the well-deserved title of "Granddad Google" from his youngest grandchild!

Despite all the knowledge he stored about the world in his head, what shone through for all that met him was what he held in his heart and how he lived it. "My religion is kindness" he would say, and he lived his life true to those words, holding patience and gentleness towards others at all times, believing in the inherent good of people.

He is incredibly missed by his family, friends, and so many other people he has touched over his life. If you are one of them reading this today, please do something kind for someone in his honour, and remember the wonderful person he is and was.

Peacefully on Wednesday, February 11th, 2026 at the age of 90. Beloved former husband of Bronwen Herlihy (nee Roberts) (2024). Loving father of Nia Herlihy (Chris Pipka) and Rhian (2023) (Joe Oliveira). Cherished grandfather of Cody, Ryan, and Justine. Remembered by his sister Nola Wylie (nee Herlihy) of England. Pete will be greatly missed by many other relatives and friends.

Memorial visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Saturday, February 21st, 2026 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Words of remembrance will begin at 1:30 pm.

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

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

PETER EDWARD HYDE-WHIPP



Passed away peacefully on February 7, 2026, at the age of 85, in the comfort of his home, surrounded by the love of his wife of 65 years, Donna.

Peter will be lovingly remembered as a cherished father to his children, Darryl (Heidi) and Norman (Adele); an adored grandfather to Taylor (Steven), Justin (Isobel), Tori, Amanda (Colton, Lily, Hailey, Grayson, Dani), Jacob (Cyan), and Matthew; and a dear brother to Elenore, late Ronald (Doreen), and Susan (late Bill). He took great pride in his family and treasured every moment spent with them.

Peter loved all people and had a rare gift for conversation, leaving a lasting impression on everyone he met. Through his kindness, playful spirit, and love of sweets, he brought smiles and laughter wherever he went.

A beloved member of his community and a devoted member of Centre Fellowship Church, Peter was a friend to many. He lived his life guided by immense faith, leaving behind a legacy of love, values, and laughter that will continue through generations. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be held at the Dods & McNair Funeral Home, Chapel & Reception Centre, 21 First St., Orangeville on Saturday, February 28th, 2026 from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Funeral Service will be held in the chapel on Saturday, February 28th, 2026 at 2:30 pm.

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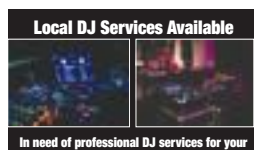
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Neil White - President

Andrea Stoddart - Secretary-Treasurer

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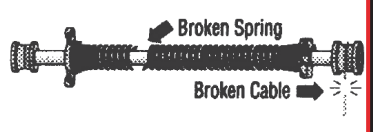
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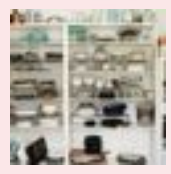
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Five Bolton ballers haul home championship hardware from finals

56th Annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest sends champs to regional finals in Toronto next month

BY JIM STEWART

Five basketball players from Bolton captured their age group championship at the 56th Annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw contest in Alliston on Saturday.

Mia Hamby (Girls 9 Division), Isabel Rand (Girls 11 Division), Giulia Iorfida (Girls 12 Division), Ceilidhane Tonner-Smith (Girls 13 Division), and Aiden MacKenzie (Boys 11 Division) hauled in championship hardware and will advance to the next stage of the long-running contest: the regional finals at St. Basil the Great CHS in Toronto on March 28.

Hamby attends Holy Family School, Tonner-Smith attends Maxville Public School, and Rand, Iorfida, and Mackenzie attend St. John Paul II School.

Hamby, Rand, Iorfida, Tonner-Smith, and MacKenzie demonstrated their steely nerves at the charity stripe on Valentine's Day against the top free throw shooters from Bolton, Orangeville, and New Tecumseth at Holy Family School in Alliston. Hamby and Tonner-Smith won hard-fought divisions where extra five-shot tie-breakers were deployed to crown the champs.

17-year-old Michael Murad of St. Thomas Aquinas CHS in Tottenham accrued the highest free throw percentage in the regional competition. Murad shot 84 per cent from the line during a stellar 21/25 performance.

14-year-old Isaiah Manuel of St. Thomas Aquinas School in Alliston had the second-highest success rate —making 80 per cent of his three throws in an excellent 20/25 performance on Saturday.

It is the 56th year that the Knights of Columbus have convened this event for school kids in Central Ontario and across the province.

The results of this regional contest in Alliston are below with age, name, town, school, and score of the competitor:

Girls

- 9 Mia Hamby, Bolton, Holy Family, 5/25+1/5+3/5
- 10 Amanda Cruz, Tottenham, F.X. O'Rielly, 7/25
- 11 Isabel Rand, Bolton, St. John Paul II, 16/25
- 12 Guilia Iorfida, Bolton, St. John Paul II, 9/25
- 13 Ceilidhane Tonner-Smith, Bolton, Maxville Public, 17/25+5/5
- 14 Eva Williamson, Alliston, Banting Memorial, 7/25
- 16 Miranda Morrison, Alliston, St. Thomas Aquinas, 16/25

Boys

- 9 Bentley Butler, Essa, Baxter Central, 15/25
- 10 Keaton Brooks, Orangeville, Princess Margaret, 16/25
- 11 Aiden MacKenzie, Bolton, St. JohnPaul II, 17/25



- 12 Alessio Raimondo, Tottenham, Monsignor Ronan, 16/25
- 13 Tomas Carriere, Alliston, St. Paul's, 9/25
- 14 Isaiah Manuel, Alliston, St. Thomas Aquinas, 20/25
- 15 Dashaun Marcelin, Alliston, St. Thomas Aquinas, 16/25
- 16 Landon Cuddy, Alliston, Banting Memorial, 14/25
- 17 Michael Murad, Tottenham, St. Thomas Aquinas, 21/25

The Caledon Citizen wishes Mia Hamby, Isabel Rand, Giulia Iorfida, Ceilidhane Tonner-Smith, and Aiden MacKenzie the best of bounces and the sweet sound of string music from the free throw line in Toronto on March 28.







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AUTO SHOWCASE

YOUR GUIDE TO 2026 VEHICLES

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2026 TOYOTA TACOMA 4X4

This is the pickup truck built for adventure.

THE 2026 TOYOTA TACOMA provides an extraordinary combination of power, capability, and advanced technology that will take you anywhere you want to go, and it takes you there in comfort.

On the outside, the Tacoma is bold and aggressive with outstanding lines and contours.

Its front grille and fascia are chiselled to provide a powerful stance with well-defined lines. The sculpted hood with air intake adds to the mystique of the Tacoma's overall appearance.

The body contours provide a rugged appearance, yet are designed to add a touch of refinement to this outstanding vehicle. The aggressive tires are designed to provide off-road functionality while offering excellent traction and handling on pavement.

The Tacoma looks like it will be at-home on any off-road trail, but at the same time, it looks terrific cruising down any street or highway.

Just because the Tacoma is built to be tough doesn't mean you will sacrifice comfort when you are behind the wheel.

The interior is designed for a comfortable ride with attention paid to all the little details that make driving enjoyable. You will enjoy IsoDynamic Performance front seats for superior comfort.

A 12.3-inch digital gauge cluster allows you to see all the information you need with bright illumination. The colour display allows access to safety features, navigation, audio controls, off-road features, and towing functions. There is an available 14-inch multimedia touchscreen that supports a variety of functions including wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Available interior features include 8-way power adjustable driver's seat, a heated steering wheel, and dual zone automatic climate control.

You will enjoy your favourite music with the available 10-speaker JBL Premium Audio system.

With Toyota Safety Sense technology, you are never alone when you're behind the wheel.

Toyota Safety Sense 3.0 includes Pre-Collision System with Pedestrian Detection, Full-Speed Range Dynamic Radar Cruise Control, Lane Departure Alert with Steering Assist, Lane Tracing Assist, Road Sign Assist, Automatic High Beams, and Proactive Driving Assist.

The available 3D Multi-Terrain Monitor allows you to get a better view of your immediate surroundings and even the ground below. THE MTM lets you toggle between front, rear, and side cameras to check for potential obstacles.

An available panoramic view monitor and multi-terrain monitor provides multiple exterior angles viewable on the 14-inch touchscreen. Views include a 360-degree top-down panorama, as well as Side Clearance, Cornering, and See-through Views, all designed to provide the drive with information and confidence in any driving situation. The Tacoma features dual-stage airbags for driver and front passenger, front seat-mounted side airbags, roll-sensing side airbags, and driver and passenger knee airbags.

Available Intuitive Parking Assist with Auto Braking takes the guesswork out of parking. Intuitive Parking helps you steer, accelerate, brake, and shift into and out of the perfect parking position every time.

There are 11 different versions of the 2026 Tacoma and all are built to take you to where the pavement ends and the fun begins. Each version has its own unique features.

The standard engine is a 2.5 L, 4-cylinder Turbo Engine with 4-wheel drive. Producing 278 horsepower and a whopping 317 lb-ft of torque, you have plenty of power to go anywhere

Four versions have a 2.4 L 4-cylinder Turbo Hybrid power train. With the hybrid model, there is 326 horsepower and a huge 465 lb-ft of torque.

Powertrains are completed with either an 8-speed automatic transmission or a 6-speed manual transmission.

All hybrid Tacoma trucks come standard with a 2400W onboard AC inverter that sends power to both the bed and inside the cabin.

The Tacoma is built to take on all challenges. With a range of purpose-built suspension options and available trail features like multi-line rear suspension and Crawl Control, the Tacoma never met a challenge it didn't like.

Taking your toys with you on a road trip is important, and the 2026 Tacoma allows you to tow with no worries, thanks to available advanced technology like Trailer Backup Guide with Straight Path Assist, an integrated brake controller, and Blind Spot Monitor that extends the area of detection when it identifies a trailer is being towed.

With a towing capacity of 5,960 lbs., you can tow your boat or trailer with confidence.

An available up/down power tailgate can be opened or closed with the press of a button on the key fob or a switch near either taillight.

The Tacoma is available in 12 exciting colours, including three two-tone options with a black roof.

Every new Toyota comes with Toyota Care – a maintenance plan that covers normal factory scheduled service for two years or 25,000 miles, whichever comes first, and 24-hour Roadside Assistance for two years, unlimited mileage.

The 2026 Toyota Tacoma is the bold and ready pickup truck built for adventure while looking stylish and providing passenger comfort.





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AJAC announces 12 Best Vehicles in Canada for 2026

MONTREAL, Jan. 15, 2026 /CNW/ -

The 12 Best Vehicles in Canada for 2026 have been revealed today at the Montreal Auto Show, where they are on display to visitors in the Canadian Car of the Year Awards (CCOTY) booth for the duration of the show. The popular event at the Palais des Congrès runs until January 25.

The 12 Best Vehicles in Canada for 2026 are as follows:

Canadian Car of the Year
- Honda Civic
- Hyundai Elantra
- Porsche 911 Carrera

Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year
- Ford Maverick
- Hyundai Palisade
- Toyota RAV4

Canadian Electric Car of the Year
- Lucid Air
- Porsche Taycan
- Toyota Prius Plug-In Hybrid

Canadian Electric Utility Vehicle of the Year
- Hyundai Ioniq 9
- Kia EV9
- Lucid Gravity


Porsche 911 Carrera
2026 CANADIAN CAR OF THE YEAR

SELECTED BY AN EXPERT jury from the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC), these 12 excellent vehicles also go forward as the finalists in four categories for the 2026 Canadian Car of the Year Awards.

"We are very pleased, at the Montreal Auto Show, to present the 12 Best Vehicles in Canada as selected by AJAC Canadian Car of the Year jurors", said Luis Pereira, Executive Director, Montreal AutoShow. "These are the vehicles Canadians prefer, designed and tested for the realities of our roads, and that our passionate visitors can experience up close. This recognition highlights excellence and innovation within the automotive industry."

The 12 Best Vehicles in Canada for 2026 comprise a competitive mix of brand-new contenders, updated vehicles, and evergreen favourites among Canadian car-buyers.

Canada's best-selling car, the Honda Civic, is also the reigning Canadian Car of the Year. Aiming to retain its title in 2026, it is joined as a 12 Best finalist by its familiar compact-class competitor, the Hyundai Elantra, and the latest incarnation of the legendary Porsche 911 Carrera.

Meanwhile, the Utility Vehicle of the Year award will be contested by machines from three different segments. The Ford Maverick, a compact pickup truck, doubled its Canadian sales in 2025, while the three-row Hyundai Palisade and ever-popular, two-row Toyota RAV4 crossover SUVs have both been renewed for the 2026 model year.

In the Electric Car of the Year category, the Lucid Air was a 12 Best finalist last year and returns for another shot at the award. Joining it on this year's 12 Best list are the updated Porsche Taycan and Toyota's Prius Plug-In Hybrid.

Finally, the battle for Electric Utility Vehicle of the Year sees the Kia EV9 – also a 12 Best finalist last year – face off against two brand-new electric SUVs: Hyundai's third contender across four categories, the Ioniq 9; and Lucid's Gravity.

"Today, AJAC is proud to present the 12 Best Vehicles in Canada for 2026. This isn't just an important step on the road to the Canadian Car of the Year Awards, it is also a key list for Canadian new-car buyers," said Evan Williams, AJAC president. "This year's 12 Best include one of the widest ranges of automakers that we've ever seen. There are familiar models on the list, like the Honda Civic and Hyundai Elantra, but also first-timers like the Lucid Gravity and Ford Maverick. Fifty-three (53) of Canada's most experienced professional automotive journalists have driven and voted on these vehicles and found them to be the best in the country in their respective categories. I'm proud of our jurors, who each year work hard to determine which vehicles are the Best in Canada, giving you choices you can rely on when it comes to your own next new-vehicle purchase."


Lucid Gravity
CANADIAN ELECTRIC UTILITY VEHICLE OF THE YEAR

The list of 12 Best Vehicles in Canada is created from detailed ballots completed by AJAC's expert journalists. Over the course of two rounds of voting, more than 1,400 ballots have been submitted by 53 jurors based right across Canada, from Vancouver to Halifax. CCOTY is Canada's ONLY vehicle awards scheme in which the jurors drive every vehicle they vote on. Vehicles are tested on the same roads and in the same conditions faced by Canadian drivers from coast to coast every day. AJAC members will be available to share their expertise with visitors during the Montreal Auto Show.

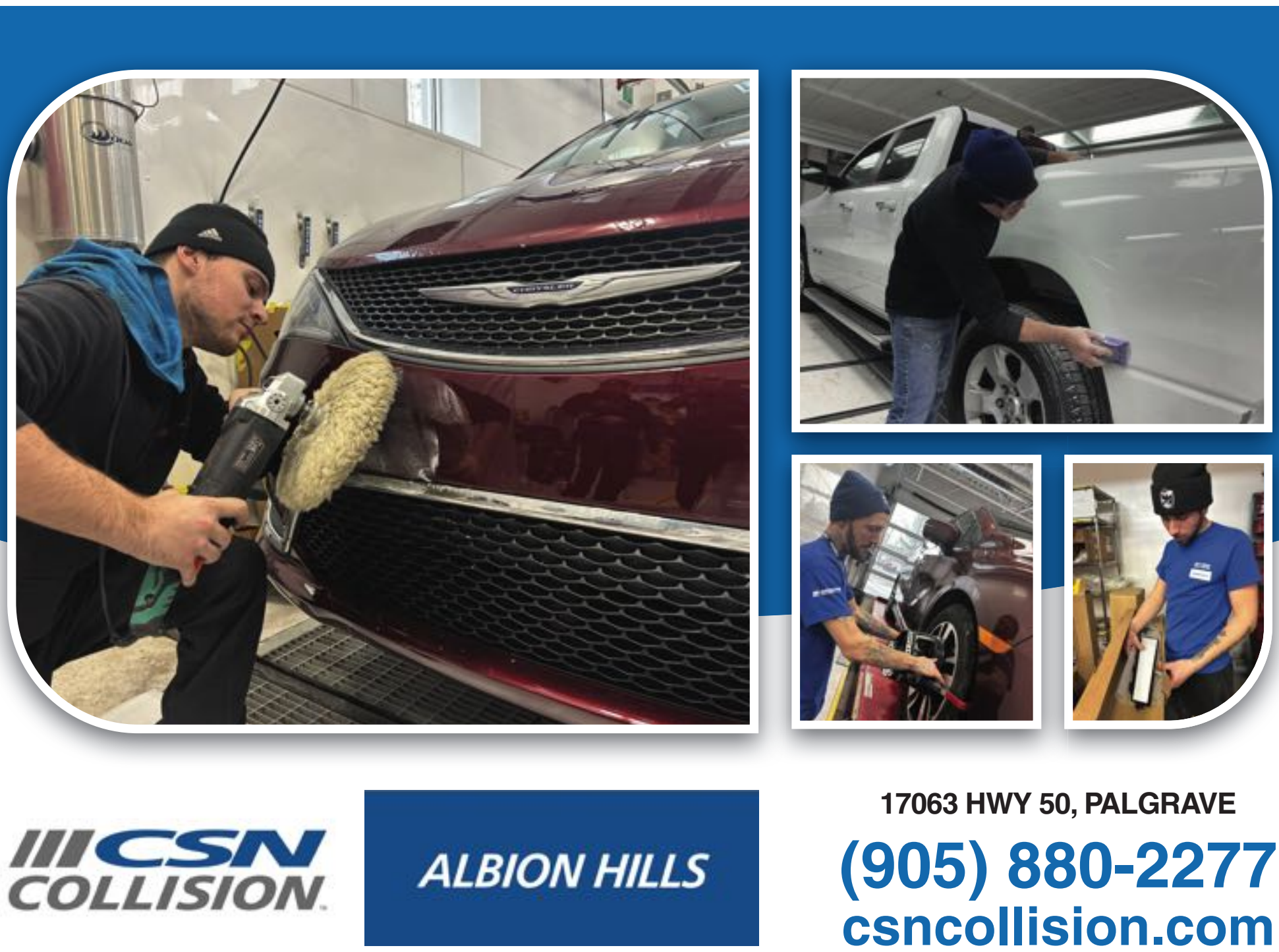
Every 2026 model year vehicle – there are almost 400 in all – is eligible for the CCOTY Awards, including those newly designed, recently refreshed, and carried over from the previous model year.

The category winners for Canadian Car of the Year will be announced on Thursday February 12, 2026, at the Canadian International AutoShow (CIAS) in Toronto. Results from AJAC journalist member ballots are audited by international accounting firm KPMG and remain under wraps until the moment the envelopes are opened.

About the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC)
The Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) is an association of professional journalists, writers, photographers, videographers and corporate members whose focus is the automobile and the Canadian automotive industry. Collectively, our primary objectives are to promote, encourage, support, and facilitate professionalism in Canadian automotive journalism and to ensure factual and ethical reporting about the automobile and automotive issues to Canadian consumers. This is achieved through the work of our members and AJAC's annual vehicle testing and evaluation events: the Canadian Car of the Year Awards (CCOTY), AJAC Innovation Awards and EcoRun.

About KPMG
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2026 MAZDA CX-5

It is the wildly popular mid-size crossover that provides beautiful style on the outside, a well designed interior built for passenger comfort, and it is loaded with technology for a fun and exhilarating driving experience.

THE ALL-NEW 2026 Mazda CX-5 is the third generation of this vehicle with a more spacious cabin that features innovative, intuitive technology, while enhancing vehicle safety.

On the outside, the CX-5 is beautifully crafted with smooth lines and flowing contours. It maintains a sporty style while having a refined appeal.

The all-new CX-5 has a more chiselled front end with the Mazda signature wing front grille positioned between more angular lighting elements. The curving hood and sloping roof provide a stunning silhouette on any street.

At the rear end, more angular lighting creates an even greater visual impact.

The overall length and wheel base is slightly larger than previous models.

The exterior is completed with standard 17-inch grey metallic finish alloy wheels.

There are four outstanding exterior colours to choose from. Each colour was chosen to highlight the CX-5 exterior shape and contours.

New this year is a Navy Blue Mica colour which is achieved through an intricate process that uses metallic flakes to accentuate the vehicle's commanding presence on the road.

On the inside, the all-new CX-5 provides a calm, yet functional interior that is uncluttered and spacious. The driver can focus on the road while passengers can stretch out and relax.

The cabin has increased rear leg, knee, and headroom.

Interior materials and finishes acre carefully crafted to offer both lasting quality and deliver a refined atmosphere throughout the passenger cabin.

The door opens and larger, making for easier access – especially for parents loading children in car seats.

There is plenty of cargo room behind the rear seat so you can easily store all your gear when heading out on a road trip or just going across town. The new CX-5 has a cargo area that is almost two inches long and over an inch higher making it easier to load large items.

When you are behind the wheel you will appreciate the design concept of placing the driver in a cockpit that is comfortable and practical at the same time.

Available ambient lighting with a choice of seven colours creates an elegant and calming atmosphere.

There is a new available 15-6-inch integrated touchscreen display – the largest ever offered on a Mazda vehicle. The system is the hub for infotainment and connectivity offer seamless integration and intuitive operation thanks to smartphone-like usability and a customizable screen with quick access to features.

This system comes with Google built-in, which offers a more connected experience with the ability to integrate key Google features.

When you are on the road, you are surrounded by technology that helps you navigate around any city street or when you're on the open highway.

A selection of standard and available i-Activesense safety features are designed to help you travel in confidence.

This includes Smart City Brake Support Front, Mazda Radar Cruise Control with Speed Limit Assist, and Blind Spot Monitoring.

Available functions include Forward Obstruction Warning, High Beam Control System, Lane Departure Warning System, Adaptive Front-Lighting System, and Rear Cross Traffic Alert.

Under the hood there is plenty of power convenient for running around town or cruising down the highway.

The Skyactiv-G 2.5 L, engine delivers 187 horsepower and 186 lb-ft of torque. This delivers quick a quick response and acceleration with a comfortable ride and an agile performance.

The powertrain is completed with a 6-speed automatic transmission and standard i-Active All Wheel Drive.

The Mazda CX-5 is available in four trim levels, each with its own unique features.

The CX-5 has been a wildly popular vehicle with over 300,000 models sold in Canada alone, and 4.5 million sold globally.

The all-new CX-5 builds upon its proven foundation to provide a vehicle that offers superior design and innovation.

Mazda stands behind all their quality vehicles with confidence, knowing that superior engineering means drivers have the assurance of many years of happy motoring.

Standard on all new vehicles, there is a three-year unlimited mileage warranty, a five-year powertrain unlimited mileage warranty, and three-year unlimited mileage roadside assistance.

The all-new 2026 Mazda CX-5 is the mid-size crossover that is beautifully designed to be sporty and stylish while providing interior comfort and an exceptional ride delivered by superior engineering.





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■Limited time finance offer provided through Mazda Financial Services on approved credit. Representative finance offer based on a new and previously unregistered 2025 CX-90 MHEV Signature model (WXKG85 AA00). Vehicle Price is $66,847.35. 1.95% finance APR for 36 months. Monthly payment is $1,913.22, which includes: $2,195 freight and PDE; $100 A/C charge; regulatory fees (up to $12.50); Retailer administration fee (up to $795); lien registration fees (up to $58.85, including lien registering agent fee); as well as all other applicable fees, levies and duties (all of which may vary by region and Retailer). 36 monthly payments required. Licence; insurance; registration; and applicable taxes are extra. $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in required. Cost of borrowing is $2,028.63 for a total obligation of $68,875.98. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order/trade may be necessary (but may not be available in all cases). Conditions apply. Offer ends March 2, 2026, and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit mazda.ca or your Mazda Retailer for more information. ▲$4,000/$4,000/$1,000/$1,000/$1,000/$750 Event Bonus ("Bonus") is available on new and previously unregistered 2025 CX-90 PHEV/2025 CX-70 PHEV/2025 CX-70 MHEV/2025 CX-90 MHEV/2025 CX-30/2025 CX-5 models that are purchased or financed/leased (on approved credit) and delivered between February 3 and March 2, 2026, from an authorized Mazda Retailer in Canada. Bonus will be applied to the negotiated selling price of the eligible vehicle before taxes and: (i) has no cash surrender or other value; and (ii) cannot be applied to past transactions. Conditions apply. See mazda.ca or your local Mazda Retailer for details. ▲▲Get a bonus off the purchase of a Mazda Added Protection Plan with the purchase of a new and previously unregistered model between February 3 and March 2, 2026, as follows: (i) $500 Bonus: 2025 CX-5, 2025 CX-30, 2025 Mazda3; or (ii) $1,000 Bonus: 2025 CX-70, or 2025 CX-90. The applicable discount will be applied to the selling price of the Mazda Added Protection Plan before taxes and: (i) has no cash surrender or other value; (ii) does not apply to fleet sales; and (iii) cannot be applied to past transactions. Conditions apply. See mazda.ca or your local Mazda Retailer for details. †Offer available on retail leases of new 2025 CX-5 GX (NXXN85AA00)/2025 CX-30 GX (ZXXL85 AA00)/2025 CX-90 Inline 6 Turbo GS (WXSF85AA00) with a lease APR of 3.15%/2.79%/0.99% and 104/78/78 bi-weekly payments of $216/$185/$299 for 48/48/36 months, the total lease obligation is $23,028/$20,202/$25,251, including down payment (or equivalent trade-in) of $600/$950/$150. First monthly payment is due at lease inception. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 10¢ per km applies for CX-5, 15¢ per km for CX-70, CX-90 models. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Offers include max. new tire charge (all models) and $10 AMVIC charge where applicable, freight and P.D.E. of $2,195/$2,195/$2,195, $100 Air Conditioning charge (all models), PPSA and $795 administrative fee. The administration fee is intended to cover various costs, including documentation, processing, administrative, and other expenses related to the purchase, sale, or lease of the vehicle. Offers exclude PST/GST. Offered pricing available to retail customers only. Licence, insurance, taxes and down payment (where applicable) are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Retailer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid February 3 - March 2, 2026, while supplies last. Lease and finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your retailer for complete details.

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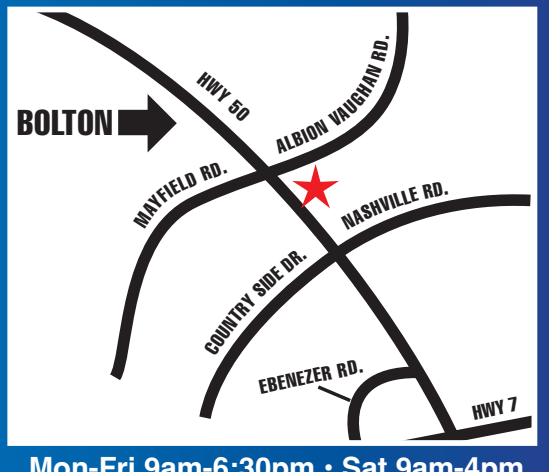
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