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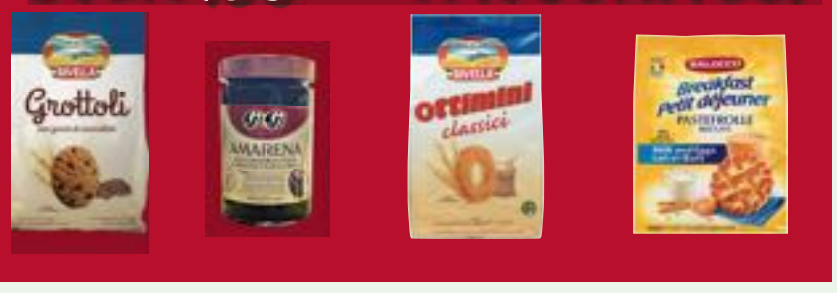


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454g pkg
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6.99 Tre Stelle Ricotta Cheese
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SAVE $1.00



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SAVE $3.00



14.99 Longo's Butternut Squash Arancini with Dipping Sauce
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HEAT AND SERVE
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SAVE AT LEAST $1.00



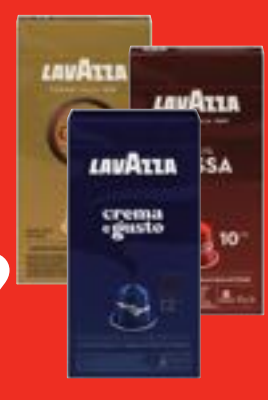
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FREE | Thursday, October 8, 2026 | Volume 46, Issue 41



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation was marked September 30 with a flag-raising ceremony at Town Hall, featuring a performance from The Brave Canoe. "The flag raising is a gesture of respect and recognition of Indigenous history, and it reflects Caledon's ongoing commitment to learning, healing and strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities," said the Town in a statement. **TOWN OF CALEDON**

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Let's talk

Community groups host final candidates meeting ahead of election

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On October 5, the Caledon Public Library, Metamorphosis Network and the Caledon Chamber of Commerce held its final candidates' meeting for the upcoming election.

This meeting was held at the Margaret Dunn Library Branch in Valleywood and featured Council candidates from Wards 1, 2 and 3 as well as Regional Council candidates for Wards 1,2 and 3.

Candidates Jeffrey Halsall, Kate Hepworth, Keri Parfitt and Aanya Shahi attended to represent Ward 1.

Candidates Yogi Chahal, Hunar Kahlon, Jagraj Sekhon and Ramesh Madhok attended to represent Ward 2.

Candidates Stan Cameron and Doug Maskell attended to represent Ward 3.

Candidates Harpreet Grewal, Dave Sheen and Mauro Testani attended to represent Ward 1,2 and 3 as Regional Councillor.

Tom Sweeney candidate for Ward 1 was not present at the debate.

Starting the event, Colleen Lipp, CEO of Caledon Public Library thanked everyone for attending all of the debate meetings that have been held and said it was wonderful to see the large turnouts at each event.

Candidates were then given three minutes each to introduce themselves and give opening remarks.

Once all candidates introduced themselves, the debate began with questions that had been submitted by residents prior to the meeting.

Continued on Page A11

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NEW COURTHOUSE – On Wednesday morning, Mayor Annette Groves, centre, was joined by Councillor Doug Maskell, CAO Nathan Hyde, Councillor Tony Rosa, and Steven Dickson, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Legal Officer, to formally break ground on a new Provincial courthouse. For more on the new facility, see Page A3. **PHOTO BY KATHRYN FRASER**

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Caledon Votes 2026

Council candidates identify top environmental priorities in their Wards

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As there are only a few weeks left until the upcoming municipal election, we continue to pose weekly questions to Council candidates to inform voters ahead of the October 26 vote.

This week, we asked, "What is your top environmental concern in your ward and, if elected/re-elected, what would you do to address it?"

Here is how the candidates answered:

Ward 1

Kate Hepworth: "'Top environmental concern,' how does one pull out one singular item? Aggregate extracted every day frequently below the water table, loaded into trucks driven by persons (not all, thank goodness, for the good drivers) with questionable qualifications in trucks that may or may not be road worthy. Dust in the air from the pit sites, exhaust and fumes from the trucks, thousands of trucks on our roads. Now, fill that cannot be confirmed as clean being dumped into end-of-life pits including ponds and lakes, thus creating leaching into groundwater aquifers. Ask again how you pick one environmental issue. What would I do about it? Pursue an alignment with TAPMO and other municipalities to reign in the impacts and revisit decisions being made with no public consultation. Real time testing now that is accessible to the public."

Keri Parfitt: "My top environmental concern is the Site Alteration By-law that will come before Council next term. This by-law, as it is currently written, has the potential to open rural Caledon up to the business of large-scale commercial fill operations. As Ward 1 is serviced exclusively by groundwater, this by-law has the potential to bring devastating consequences to our communities. It could also result in thousands of additional trucks congesting our roadways and our lungs through the negative effect on our air quality. The Site Alteration By-law needs to be [revised] to strengthen water protections, improve transparency and accountability through Council oversight and eliminate the possibility of large-scale commercial fill."

Aanya Shahi: "My top environmental concern in Ward 1 is protecting our water, farmland and rural environment as Caledon continues to grow. Ward 1 is home to farms, natural areas and groundwater resources that need to be protected when decisions are made about development, aggregate operations and other major projects. These decisions can have long-term impacts on traffic, noise, water and the quality of life of nearby residents. If elected, I would make sure environmental impacts are taken seriously before supporting major projects. I would push for strong environmental reviews, protection of groundwater and farmland, and meaningful consultation with residents who will be directly affected. Growth is coming to Caledon, but it should never come at the expense of the environment and rural character that make our community special."

Tom Sweeney: "Currently, the top environmental concern in Ward 1 is the proposed mega-quarry which involves blasting approximately 800 acres of land within our community to 80 feet below the water table. The concerns involve air quality, our water supply, as well as heaping more truck traffic on our already strained roads. If the proposal comes to Council, I will not vote in favour of it. In addition, I will advocate against it to the provincial government not only to reject the proposal, but also to increase the levy allotment that we receive from the provincial government for the aggregate produced. The current $400,000 or so that we receive is nowhere near what is needed to repair the damage to our roads. We need to make it clear to the province that our community cannot withstand the onslaught of so much aggregate production without significant help."

(Jeffrey Halsall did not respond by deadline)

Ward 2

Yogi Chahal: "When I look around Ward 2, my biggest environmental concern is that we are growing so quickly that we may not realize what we have lost until it is gone. I am not against growth. Families need homes and our community will continue to change. But every new road, rooftop and development changes the land around us, including where rainwater goes and how our green spaces are affected. My time with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority taught me something I have never forgotten: water, land and development are all connected. If elected, I want us asking the important questions before we build, not after problems appear. Where will the water go? Are we protecting the green spaces around us? What will this decision mean twenty years from now? We can build new communities without losing the things that made us want to call Caledon home in the first place."

Hunar Kahlon: "Protecting Caledon's natural resources while managing the growth coming our way responsibly is one of the biggest challenges we face here in Ward 2. As we continue to grow, we need to make sure our water, air, farmland and green spaces are not negatively impacted. We need to zoom out and look at the larger picture. Environmental impacts don't stop at ward boundaries, so we need to look at Caledon as a whole and ensure that the cumulative environmental impact of growth is factored into our decisions. If elected, I will work to ensure stronger safeguards are in place to protect our environment and that potential concerns are identified early in the planning process when we have the best opportunity to mitigate them. Residents must also have a meaningful voice in that process. We can manage growth responsibly and build complete communities, but the bottom line is simple: growth should not come at the expense of our natural resources and environment."

Jagraj Sekhon: "My top environmental concern in Ward 2 is making sure our infrastructure, and public spaces keep up as our community grows. Residents have concerns about the maintenance of trails, stormwater areas and other green spaces, as well as illegal dumping, including waste from construction. Growth cannot mean allowing these problems to get worse. As Councillor, I will push for better maintenance of our trails and stormwater infrastructure, quicker action on resident complaints, and stronger enforcement against illegal dumping. I also want to make sure new development properly plans for drainage, green space and the long-term needs of the community. Protecting our environment starts right here in our neighbourhoods, keeping them clean, well-maintained, and properly planned as Ward 2 grows."

Rakesh Madhok: My top environmental concern in Ward 2 is to make sure that the growth should not come at the price of losing green space and the natural drainage system. Ward 2 is growing at a rapid pace and we have to make sure that development is planned while keeping the environment in mind. Stormwater management is an important factor because rainfall can increase flooding. Protecting the green space and trees helps to manage stormwater. While keeping the green space it reduces the heat and we maintain the character of the community. If elected, I will advocate for better protection of the green space and natural drainage. I will recommend the EcoSystem Approach which is based on science-based assessments to the development applications which will be a strong way to balance growth with environment protection. Stormwater system to be designed while keeping in mind for future climate conditions. More transparency is required so that the Town can track what is promised and delivered by the developers. While keeping the growth and infrastructure in mind, my goal would be to make sure we build complete and strong communities while protecting the natural assets and resources of Caledon which is ultimately a great place to live."

Ward 3

Stan Cameron: "Environmental concerns in Ward 3 are directly related to the residential growth in the Ward. Specifically, the need to balance the residential development with the protection of natural and rural areas. Some of the concerns shared by residents during door-to-door canvassing are the need to maintain a balance between the incoming growth and the preservation of agricultural lands, the rural character, and our green spaces. Rapid development can place stress on local infrastructure, water resources, and air quality. As a Council member I will push to ensure sufficient environmental safeguards are in place and that these protections are clearly communicated to Ward 3 residents. As we have seen, growth brings with it high volumes of heavy trucks moving through rural roads and villages raising local air quality and safety concerns ahead of regional road downloading. Notwithstanding that the Province has weakened municipal oversight, I believe there is still much we can do to insist that the growth proceed with resident input and expectations."

Continued on Page A17

VOTE
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SEKHON
COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE
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• Public Health and Community Safety
• Support Local Businesses
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Caledon breaks ground on new Provincial courthouse



An architect's rendering of the new courthouse is seen on site. TOWN OF CALEDON PHOTO

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Caledon officially broke ground on a new Provincial Offices Act Courthouse on Wednesday morning, which will be located southeast of Town Hall off Innis Lake Road.

The courthouse will be used as a dedicated civic and institutional facility supporting the Town's Provincial Offices Act (POA) operations.

This one-story building, at roughly 2,295 square metres, will have dedicated offices, a designated prosecution area, court administration functions, and Administrative Monetary Penalty System services.

It has been designed to promote operational efficiency, accessibility and equitable access to services.

"This ground-breaking marks an important milestone for our community and our continued commitment to delivering efficient, accessible public services," said Mayor Annette Groves. "By strengthening our justice infrastructure and supporting public safety, this modern courthouse will serve residents, businesses and Caledon's growing community for generations to come."

Joining Mayor Groves in the ground-breaking were Caledon Chief Administrative Officer Nathan Hyde, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Legal Officer Steven Dickson, as well as Ward 3 Councillor Doug Maskell and Ward 5 Councillor and acclaimed Regional Ward 4,5,6 Councillor Tony Rosa.

"The new courthouse is an important investment in Caledon's future and in the safety and well-being in our community," said Hyde. "It will strengthen access to local justice services while combining innovative design, energy-efficient building features, accessibility and efficient service delivery to meet the needs of our growing community and provide-long term value for residents."

Construction for the new courthouse is now underway, and the anticipated date of completion is Winter 2028.

With the investment of $30 million that has been allocated to the project, it will be used to provide accessible and sustainable civic infrastructure that will enhance the delivery of judicial and administrative services for the Caledon community.

The project will focus on the key component of sustainability and will have a number of different features that include fully electric building systems, high-performance building envelope, solar panels on the roof, and charging stations for electric vehicles.

It has also been designed with features to prioritize both accessibility and connectivity, such as new pedestrian links connecting the courthouse to existing parking lots and a multi-use trail network, creating better access to the courthouse through the civic campus.

18-year-old Caledon resident seeking funds to access specialized POTS treatment

BY KATHRYN FRASER

A Caledon resident is looking for assistance to help raise funds to provide access to a specialized treatment.

Elise Brodeur is an 18-year-old Caledon resident who was diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS – Dysautonomia) nine years ago, and it has taken over every part of her life, through numerous hospital visits and ongoing care that is needed from various specialists due to the severity of her condition.

Daily symptoms include profound fatigue, brain fog, dizziness, shortness of breath, digestive issues, heart palpitations, and even more severe symptom flare ups that result in trips to the ER and, at the worst, can leave her bedridden for many weeks.

Due to these symptoms, Elise has been unable to attend school as even with the help from a caregiver she may have difficulty eating, managing basic personal and interact with others.

Her mother, Nicole Brodeur, is a single mother who is unable to work full-time as she is the main caregiver for Elise.

Elise has been given a critical opportunity to get the treatment she needs at The Keiser Clinic in Michigan and, according to her cardiologists, it may be one of her only remaining options.

The cost of the intensive treatment is $1,900CAD, not including travel or accommodation.

The treatment for two to three weeks is optimal, and Elise will continue to need continued treatment at home.

Elise's aunt and Nicole's sister has started a GoFundMe for Elise with the hopes of raising $55,000 and , so far, they have raised $12,299.

For information about Dysautonomia more information can be found at www.dysautonomiainternational.org/page.php?ID=30. For further information about Elise and her GoFundMe, visit www.gofundme.com/f/help-elise-access-specialized-pots-treatment.

On October 26, ELECT

DIANA MOLLICONE

FOR WARD 5 COUNCILLOR

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- Recipient of Town of Caledon 2026 "Distinguished Citizen" Award
- Community-organizer
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- Board Member, Downtown Bolton Improvement Area (BIA)
- Board Member, Brightstart Caleon

I'm listening, here are my priorities:

✓ **Safer Roads & Truck Traffic:** Strengthen enforcement, push for needed road upgrades, and working with OPP on neighbourhood-specific enforcement concerns

✓ **Responsible Growth:** Phase development with the infrastructure to support it, while ensuring growth pays for growth

✓ **Accessibility:** Expand practical supports like windrow clearing, and accessibility grants

✓ **A Strong Downtown:** Revitalize our downtown and support small businesses

✓ **Opportunities for Youth:** Expand local jobs, co-ops, mentorship and community involvement

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Facebook: /MolliconeWard5 · Insta: @Diana_Mollicone
416-434-1045

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision

FILE NUMBER: 21T-26011C

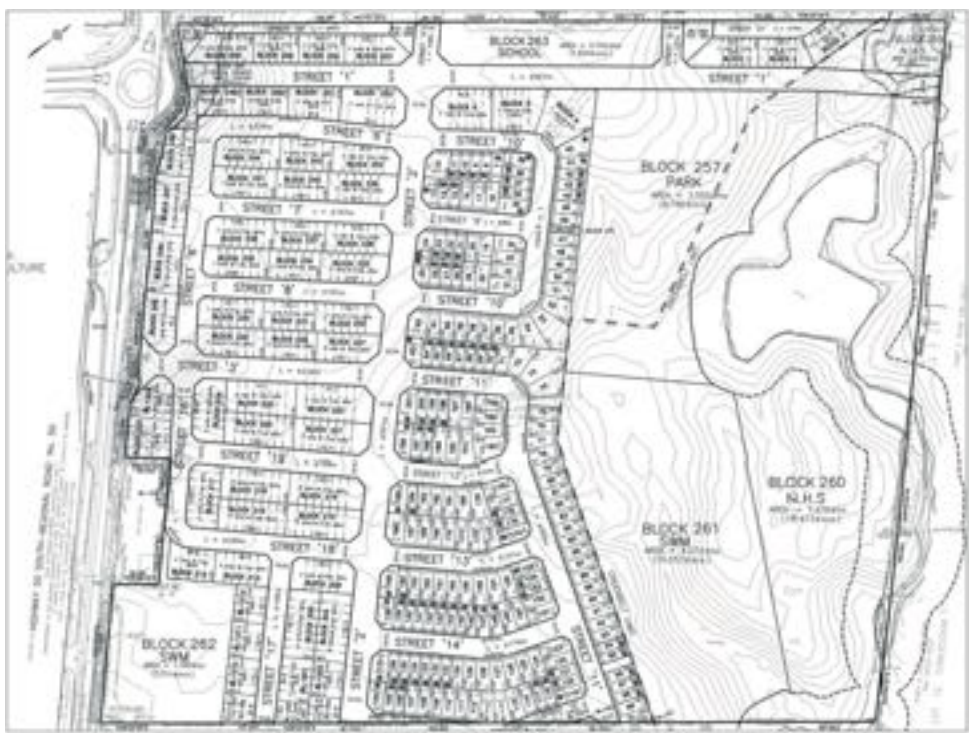
This is to inform you that the Town of Caledon has received an application for a Draft Plan of Subdivision. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

APPLICANT:
KLM Planning Partners Inc. on behalf of Oakbank Estates Inc. c/o Royal Pine Homes

LOCATION:
14475 Highway 50
Concession 7, Albion, Part 13, Part 1 on Plan 43R-16003

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The purpose of the application is to facilitate a residential development consisting of 192 single-detached dwellings and 375 townhouse units. The proposed development also includes a neighbourhood park, two stormwater management ponds, an open space block, an elementary school block, two natural heritage system blocks, future development blocks and an internal public road network.



**The illustration is for information purposes, and it is subject to change.*
The application is currently under review by the Town of Caledon

LEAD PLANNER:

Chris Bean
Community Planner, Development & Design
Planning & Development Department
905-584-2272 ext. 4265
chris.bean@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Caledon with respect to the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Town of Caledon, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, Ontario L7C 1J6.

ACCESSIBILITY:

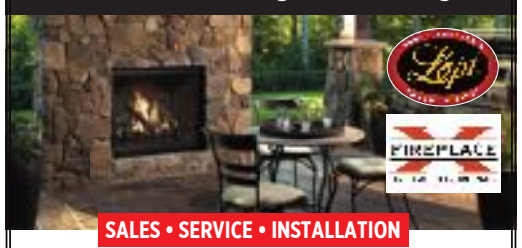
If you require an accessibility accommodation to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Records and Information Services by phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca.

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Notice Date: October 8, 2026

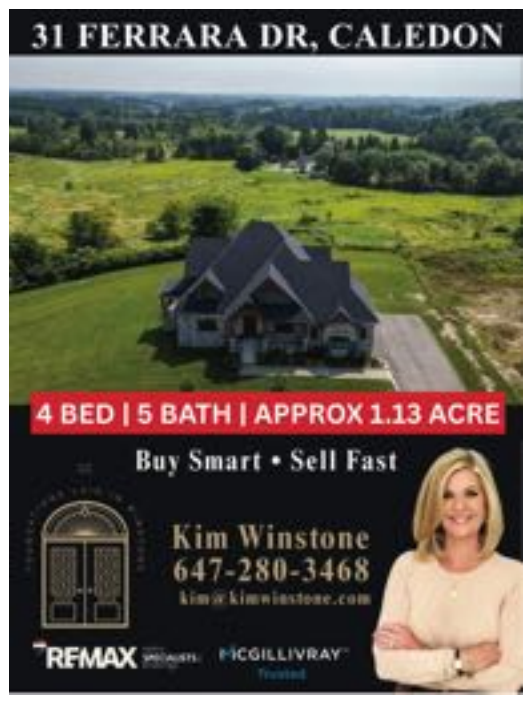
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HOME INVASION INVESTIGATIONS

Members from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating home invasions which recently took place in Caledon.

"On September 22, 2026, at approximately 11:53 a.m., officers responded to a report of a robbery involving three suspects at a residence on Cirrus Crescent, near Bonnieglen Farm Boulevard, in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "Two residents inside the home were assaulted and property was taken. No life-threatening injuries were reported.

"On September 26, 2026, at approximately 1:30 a.m., officers responded to a report of a robbery involving three suspects at a residence on Vinewood Road, near Dougall Avenue, in the Town of Caledon. One resident inside the home was assaulted and property was taken. No life-threatening injuries were reported."

This investigations are ongoing by the Caledon OPP Major Crime Unit (MCU).

Anyone with information or surveillance/dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP by phone at 1-888-310-1122, referencing occurrence number E261379318 for the first instance, and E261397809 for the second.

You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

DRUG CHARGES

Members of the Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested and charged an individual following a recent warrant execution.

"During the summer of 2026, the Caledon CSCU entered into a drug investigation regarding the alleged cultivation of Opium," say Police. "With the assistance of Muskoka CSCU, a search warrant was executed upon a residence in the Town of Caledon.

"Officers seized approximately 666 grams of Opium, 184 grams of dried Opium pods and seeds, one gram of Methamphetamine, and one gram of Heroin."

As a result of the investigation, Iqbal Bhangu, 35, of Caledon, was charged with:

- Production of a Schedule I substance – Opium;
- Possession of a Schedule I substance – Heroin;
- Possession of a Schedule I substance – Methamphetamine.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Orangeville at a later date to answer to the charges.

The charges have not been proven.

If you suspect illegal activity in your neighbourhood, you can report it to Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

DRUG TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and its Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), have charged eight individuals and seized illicit drugs following a drug trafficking investigation in Dufferin County.

"Dufferin CSCU conducted an extensive investigation beginning in April of 2026 into the trafficking of controlled substances within Dufferin County," say Police. "As a result of the investigation, six locations in East Garafraxa, Amaranth, Orangeville, Etobicoke and Innisfil were identified as being involved in the trafficking of suspected cocaine and fentanyl.

"On September 11, 2026, members of the Dufferin CSCU, assisted by the Caledon, Muskoka, Collingwood and Nottawasaga CSCUs, executed three Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) search warrants at the identified locations.

"On September 29, 2026, members of the Dufferin CSCU, assisted by the Tactics and Rescue Unit (TRU), arrested a male at a residence in Etobicoke. Officers subsequently executed three more Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) search warrants at locations in Etobicoke and Innisfil. During the execution of those warrants, two other individuals were also arrested."

As a result of these warrants, police seized:

- Approximately 2,182 grams of suspected cocaine;
- Approximately 624 grams of suspected fentanyl;
- Approximately 24 grams of suspected methamphetamine;
- 51 hydromorphone tablets;
- 13 oxycodone tablets;
- Three opioid pills;
- Approximately 39 grams of an unknown white powder;
- Approximately $64,510 in Canadian currency;
- Drug trafficking paraphernalia, including scales and packaging materials;
- Large quantities of additional unknown white powders pending analysis;
- A Denali .380 calibre handgun;
- Ammunition of various calibres;
- A hydraulic cocaine press;
- Packaging materials, vacuum sealers, and digital scales consistent with drug trafficking
- Cellular devices;
- Multiple luxury bags, watches, and pieces of jewelry believed to be proceeds of crime.

As a result of this lengthy investigation:

Krista Johnston, a 46-year-old female from of East Garafraxa, has been charged with:

- Trafficking in a Schedule I Substance (Cocaine);
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking (Cocaine);
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking (Fentanyl).

The charges have not been proven.

Meghan Macdonald, a 48-year-old female of Amaranth, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking (Fentanyl).

The charge has not been proven.

Wynter Anderson, a 43-year-old female of Brampton, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking (Fentanyl);
- Failure to Comply with a Release Order.

The charges have not been proven.

Tom Winstanley, a 40-year-old male, of Orangeville, has been charged with:

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking (Opioid Other Than Heroin).

The charge has not been proven.

Steven Gallagher, a 44-year-old male, of No Fixed Address, has been charged with:

- Failure to Comply with a Release Order (two counts).

The charges have not been proven.

Ryan Oneil Douglas, a 39-year-old male, of Innisfil, has been charged with:

- Trafficking in cocaine;
- Trafficking in fentanyl;
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine (three counts);
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking fentanyl (two counts);
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking methamphetamine;
- Knowledge of unauthorized possession of firearm;
- Careless storage of firearm, weapon, prohibited device or ammunition (two counts);
- Possession of weapon for dangerous purpose;
- Possession of proceeds of crime over $5,000;
- Fail to comply with a release order (twelve counts);
- Operation of a motor vehicle while prohibited (four counts).

The charges have not been proven.

Shante Miller, a 34-year-old female of Etobicoke, has been charged with:

- Possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine;
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking fentanyl;
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking methamphetamine;
- Unauthorized possession of a prohibited or restricted firearm;
- Knowledge of unauthorized possession of firearm;
- Careless storage of firearm, weapon, prohibited device or ammunition (two counts);
- Possession of weapon for dangerous purpose;
- Possession of proceeds of crime over $5,000.

The charges have not been proven.

The last individual's identity cannot be released as it is protected by a court-ordered publication ban. The publication ban was issued to protect the person covered by the order and remains in effect.

An individual has been charged with:

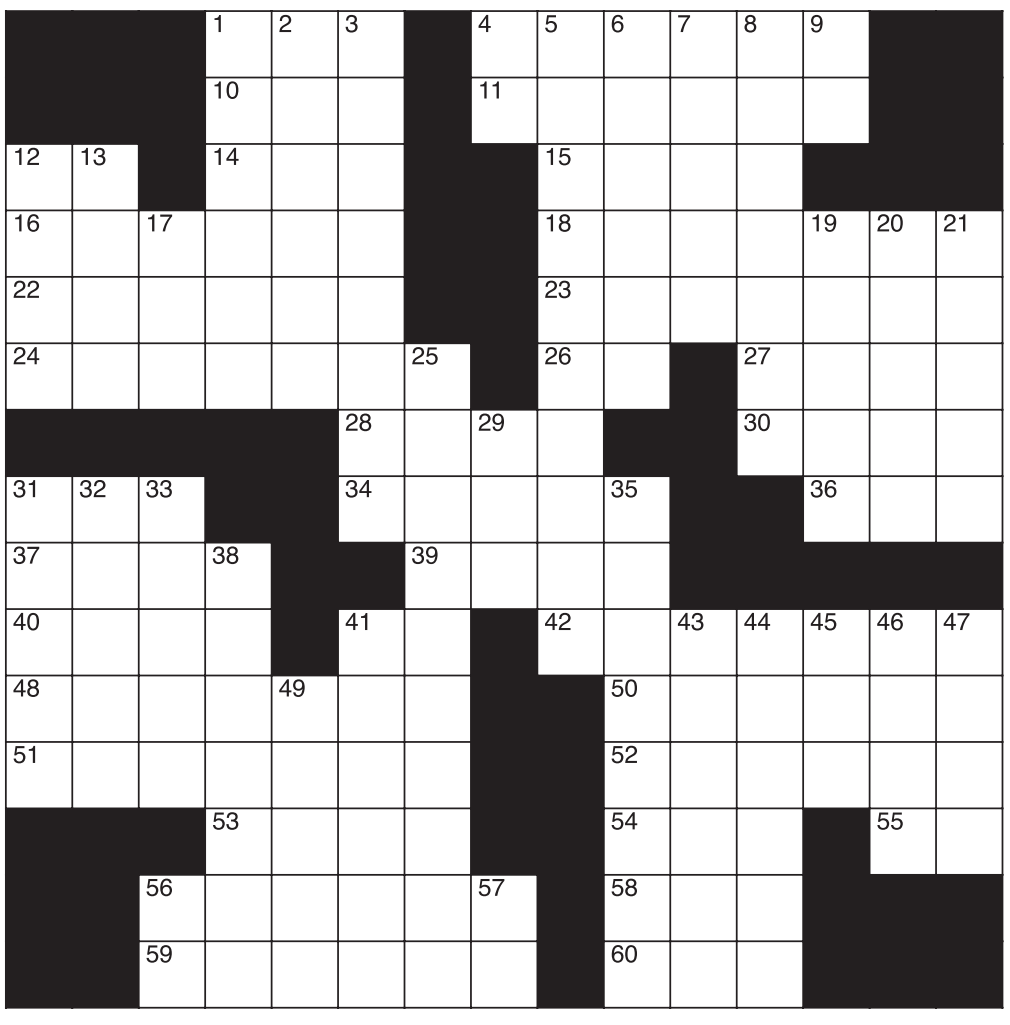
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine;
- Possession of proceeds of crime over $5,000.

The charges have not been proven.

Anyone with information regarding illegal drug activity is encouraged to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit information online at www.cstip.ca.

The Citizen CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. Solution in the classifieds.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Province in Northern Ireland
10. A major division of geological time
11. Broadway actor Lane
12. Canadian province (abbr.)
14. Human gene
15. Two
16. A notable one was "blue"
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Ring-shaped objects
23. Sullies
24. Occurs
26. Commercial
27. Near
28. Tools you may need
30. A pledge
31. They start the alphabet
34. Silk garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Longtime mayor of Rio
39. Hot meal
40. A type of gin
41. Atomic #84
42. $10 bill
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. National capital of Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. European government entity (abbr.)
56. Bike parts
58. Friend to "Barbie"
59. Stretched to see or hear
60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Wages
4. International organization of countries
5. Engravers of gems
6. Declared as fact
7. One who steals
8. Jewelry
9. Hospital worker
12. Nonsense (slang)
13. Town in Galilee
17. Value
19. Alternative identity
20. Sheep in their second year
21. Town in Surrey, England
25. Appropriate to a time of year
29. Creative work
31. Recesses
32. Largely forested municipality in Germany
33. Rider of Rohan
35. Ancient symbol co-opted by Nazis
38. Pioneer
41. Scribe
43. Painted a bright color
44. Member of British nobility
45. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
46. Helps people walk
47. Crest of a hill
49. People of southeastern Alaska
56. One's own device
57. The Mount Rushmore State

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

Caledon Votes 2026

Candidates for Wards 4, 5 and 6 share ideas at community debate



Residents came out to listen to candidates speak at a meeting hosted October 1 at the Albion Bolton Branch of the Caledon Public Library.
PHOTO BY KATHRYN FRASER

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On October 1, the Caledon Public Library, Metamorphosis Network and Caledon Chamber of Commerce hosted their second candidates meeting ahead of the October 26 municipal election.

This event was held at the Albion Bolton Branch of the Caledon Public Library and featured Council candidates for Wards 4,5 and 6.

Candidates Cheryl Connors, Pat Fortini, Heather French and Paul Parete were present to represent Ward 4, while Candidates Anthony Caputo, Diana Mollicone and John Muir were present to represent Ward 5, and Candidates Cosimo Napoli and Carmela Palkowski represented the Ward 6 race.

The event kicked off with each candidate being given three minutes to introduce themselves and give opening statements.

All candidates were then asked a variety of questions that had been submitted by residents prior to the debate, and each were given 90 seconds to respond.

To monitor the time, event staff had two paddles that were used – a yellow paddle to tell candidates they had 30 seconds left, and a red sign that signaled the candidate had reached the time limit.

After answering a few questions, the moderator switched to a rapid-fire question session where each candidate had to respond as quickly as possible.

The first rapid fire question asked candidates if they would build, pause or reject date centres to which every candidate agreed and all stated that they would reject date centres.

E-scooters became another rapid-fire topic as all candidates were asked to give three words on how they would manage the use of the emerging vehicles.

Below are the responses from each candidate:

- Candidate Fortini: Just remove them
- Candidate Parete: Outreach education to residents
- Candidate French: Education and Enforcement
- Candidate Connors: Ditto (to Candidate French's response)
- Candidate Mollicone: Ban under 18
- Candidate Muir: Helmets and Scooter Lanes
- Candidate Caputo: Mandatory helmets and Education
- Candidate Napoli: Create bylaws and enforce them
- Candidate Palkowski: Parent Education, Bylaw and Fines

Final rapid-fire questions focused on candidates' views on building height limits and what that should entail.

All candidates agreed with the height limit of six storeys, with Candidate Palkowski specifying in her answer she agreed with six storeys for residential but for containers on Highway 50 three stories should be the limit.

Following the rapid-fire and Town-wide questions, focus shifted to ward-specific questions.

One such question that stood out asked candidates, "What do you want Bolton to look like in 10 years and what development would you support and oppose to achieve that goal?"

Candidate Muir expressed that Bolton in 10 years needs to continue to be a thriving community and manage growth.

Candidate Caputo said that what he sees Bolton looking like in 10 years is a community that has roads that are repaired, curbs that don't look destroyed, traffic flowing properly through town, trucks off the roads, and traffic to slow down, especially near schools.

Candidate Mollicone expressed she would like to see Bolton become a very complete community with workplaces offering diverse types of jobs, the option for students to go university in Caledon, and be able to stay local for both school work. Mollicone said she would also like to have proper trails, proper multimodal transportation and public transit.

Candidate Napoli said he would like to see complete communities and the infrastructure to support that.

Candidate Palkowski expressed that she wants to see restored order in Bolton. She wants to see gentle density so that seniors have somewhere to downsize, affordable housing for youth, clear, fixed and safe roads and service roads.

Ward 4 candidates were asked the final ward specific question of the night where they were asked, "The Town of Caledon has been reviewing the fill bylaw and looking to replace it with a site alteration bylaw. Do you support the changes to the bylaw and does your support include preventing large scale fill operations from occurring on agricultural lands?"

Candidate French said she does not support filling up agricultural lands and asked the question, "Where is your food going to come from?" She explained she's passionate about agriculture and her experience as a farmer and that we cannot have this in Caledon.

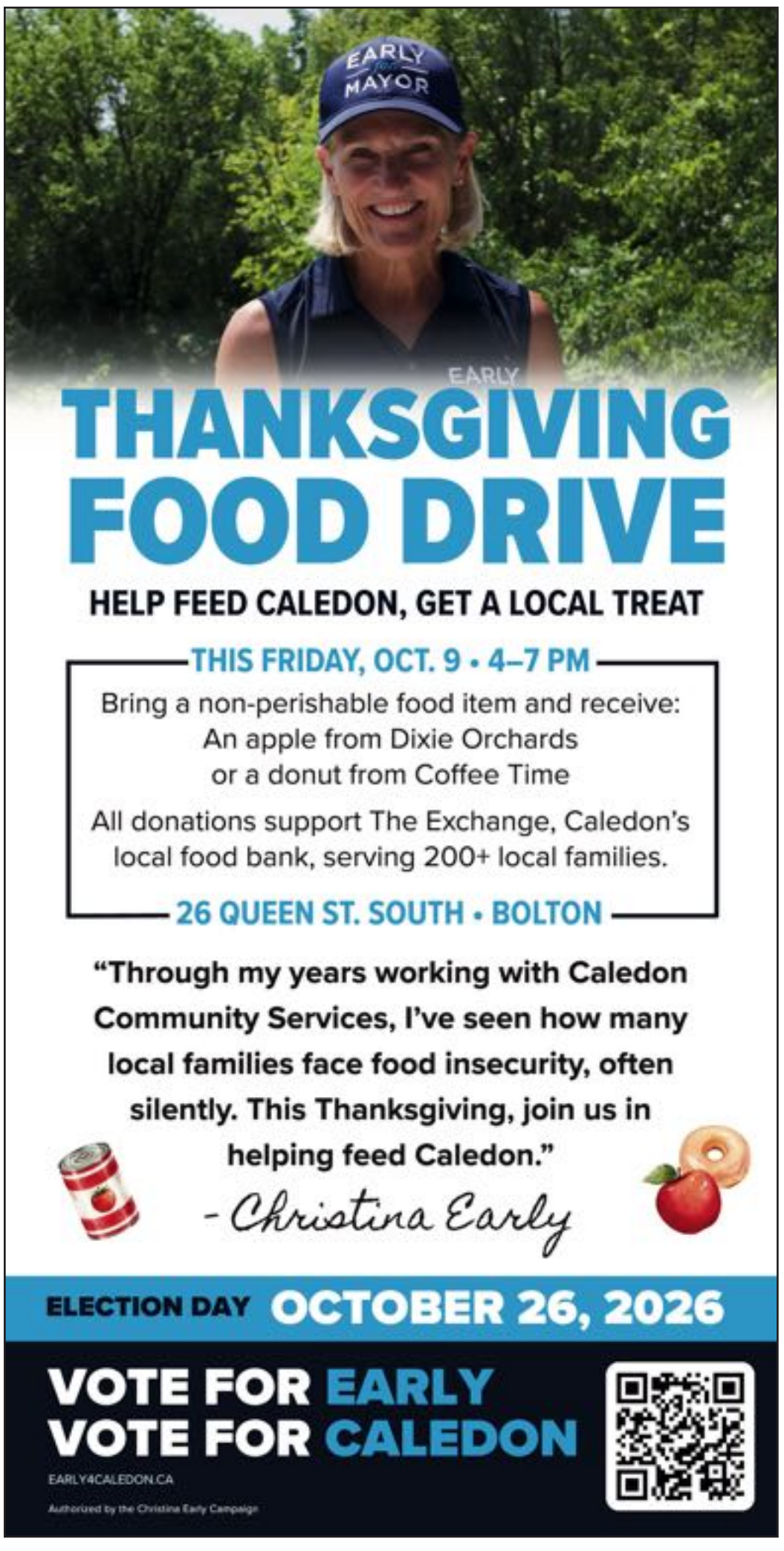
Candidate Connors explained she has been fighting a long time on this issue. She spoke about the airport on Tottenham Road where there was an aerodrome exception which brought in millions of commercial fill which was tested later. Cyanide was found in the soil and 10 years later that has not been cleaned up, she said. Connors also mentioned other large scale fill operations in which there has been mass amounts of contamination and the burden gets left on the taxpayers. She also touched on the concern in Ward 4 regarding the bylaw says under 10,000 cubic metres just for farming purposes and that the 600 trucks that are going in far exceeds it. Connors ended her comment stating the community is at risk with this site alteration bylaw, everyone is dependent on ground water, and we need to keep it clean.

Candidate Fortini said, "Absolutely not. We have to reverse it." He explains that farmlands and drinking water are the most important things in the future for all of us.

Candidate Parete expressed he does not commit to supporting any kind of bylaw alteration for this specific issue and fill. He said he supports the options that deliver the strongest legal protection, environmental safety, and transparent enforcement of illegal dumping.

Wrapping up the debate, each candidate was given two minutes to give their closing remarks for the night.

Those wishing to watch the full debate will be able to find it on the Caledon Public Library YouTube account.





ARTS & CULTURE

Theatre Orangeville opens new season with pair of comedies in "Love or Nothing: A Double Bill"

BY JOSHUA DRAKES



Improv actors Emma Grabinsky (left) and Ron Pederson (right) stand with Theatre Orangeville's artistic director Jennifer Stewart as they prepare for the first theatrical performance of the season, Love or Nothing: A Double Bill. The show features a pair of comedy plays by Stewart Lemoine.
PHOTO BY JOSHUA DRAKES

Theatre Orangeville is opening its 33rd mainstage season with something audiences at the local theatre are not used to seeing — two distinct plays sharing the stage in a single evening.

Love or Nothing: A Double Bill runs from October 15 to November 1 and pairs two one-act comedies by Canadian playwright Stewart Lemoine.

Rather than following the traditional two-act format, the production will feature Love is for Poor People, starring Emma Grabinsky, followed by Or You Could Do Nothing, starring Ron Pederson.

Both are solo performances built around characters looking back on their lives, but each approaches that reflection from a different perspective.

Pederson said that the plays combine comedy, imagination and elements of absurdism while gradually revealing more about their central characters as their stories unfold.

"I think Stewart Lemoine's plays are pretty singular," he said. "They're different from anybody else's plays. They're comedies - literate comedies. They're sort of fantastical and absurdist. I mean that in the best way. Often absurdist theatre is kind of existential, but this is sort of more hopeful. It's its own world. They're solo pieces, one actor in each, and they're tricky to talk about because they're so full of mystery. The whole story is about the unfolding, and there's lots of surprise and variety in both of them."

Love is for Poor People follows a glamorous and outspoken woman reflecting on the trajectory of an eventful life, including her career, relationships and experiences.

Grabinsky prepared for the role partly by reading autobiographies from larger-than-life entertainers including Liza Minnelli, Tallulah Bankhead and Carrie Fisher as she developed the perspective of a similarly eccentric character.

The second half, Or You Could Do Nothing, introduces Owen Fyfe, a man with an unusually large home and an ability to recognize potential in people who may not see it in themselves. He opens his home to a collection of people searching for direction, with those relationships eventually leading Owen toward discoveries about his own life and family.

While the stories and characters differ, the two plays are connected by their focus on positivity, imagination and human connection.

Music also runs through both stories, while the characters share an ability to reshape the way they understand their lives and the people around them. Love is for Poor People leans toward a faster and more eccentric comedy, while Or You Could Do Nothing takes a more reflective and philosophical approach.

Grabinsky said that these plays are designed to directly appeal to the audience and allow audience members to see themselves in the characters on stage.

"I think a big part of the plays is connecting with the audience and not being afraid of the audience," she said. "I think people who are watching this play are going to walk away feeling like they have been in a friend's living room. It feels intimate. It feels really close in the way that I hope that we're moving towards in theatre in Canada."

"Sometimes you walk away from a play and think that was amazing, but I don't really know who it's for. This play, people are going to walk away and they're going to go, 'That's for me. They said that to me. They were connecting with me,' and personally, that makes working on these plays a joyful process," Grabinsky added.

The double bill also marks a first for Theatre Orangeville.

Artistic director Jennifer Stewart was introduced to several of Lemoine's works through Pederson and saw an opportunity to bring a Canadian playwright whose work has not been widely produced in Ontario in recent years back before audiences.

"I'd read a few Stewart Lemoine plays that Ron had given me, and I just thought it was a new, fresh voice that we haven't seen in Ontario in a really long time," she said. "He had some productions at Factory Theatre in Toronto, but that was in the '80s. So, I thought, here's another untapped Canadian playwright, because that's our mandate. I'm always trying to find new voices, or voices we haven't heard in a while."

Looking for a companion piece that could create a full evening, Stewart approached Lemoine, who provided several possibilities. Love is for Poor People was ultimately selected for the contrast between its central character and Owen while maintaining themes that allow the two stories to complement each other.

The unusual format has also created a different production process.

With only one performer on stage during each play, rehearsals have been divided between Grabinsky and Pederson. The two productions must also share a single set, designed by Theatre Orangeville production manager Becky Morris, that can serve both stories without requiring a major transformation during intermission.

Opening Theatre Orangeville's "Season of Discovery," the production centres on two characters discovering themselves through reflection and their relationships with others.

The minimalist nature of the solo performances also leaves space for audiences to use their own imagination to fill in the people, places and experiences described on stage.

Love or Nothing: A Double Bill runs at Theatre Orangeville from Oct. 15 to Nov. 1.



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.*

You are invited to Orangeville Show Chorus Fall membership Series. Come and learn to sing with Orangeville Show Chorus. Perform with us in our November 7 show. 5 week program (Wednesdays). Wed. Sept. 30 - Wed. Nov. 4. *Excluding October 14* 6:30-8:00 p.m. Cost - $50. 247 Broadway, Orangeville . Lower Auditorium. osc.choirgenius.com. Contact membershipchair@osc.choirgenius.com. Contact membershipchair@osc.choirgenius.com

Plalking in October and November

The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club and ecoCaledon are co-hosting "Plalking" events - pick up while walking. Register for a Humber Valley Heritage Trail event (October 18 or November 8) or a Caledon Trailway event (October 25 or November 1) on the Bruce Trail Conservancy's Hike Schedule at https://brucetrail.org.

Bolton Kin Toonie Sale

Saturday October 17, 10 am to 1 pm President's building at the Bolton fairgrounds. Thousands of men's, ladies, children's and infant's clothing, shoes and accessories all for a toonie. That's just 2 bucks!

Albion Bolton Historical Society - Monday, **October 19**, for a 7:30 PM start, at Rotary Place, 7 Rotarian Way, Bolton, Multi-purpose Room 2. **NOTE: NEW MEETING LOCATION**. Valerie Mackie and John McFall will present The Humber River: A River's Indigenous Roots & Bolton's Water-powered Industrial Past. Guests $5.00. Questions: nhillerphoto@bell.net or 905-584-2801 visit us at boltonhistory.com

Charity section proves success story for Bolton Fall Fair and community alike



An array of the items shoecased in the charity section at this year's Bolton Fall Fair.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On September 25 to 27 the Bolton Fall Fair featured an expanded charity section.

The wide-ranging section was located in the Homecraft area and gave attendees the chance to submit a number of handmade items for a chance to win first, second, third and fourth place, go home with a cash prize, and support various community organizations.

All items were to be donated after the Fair was over and sent to a number of locations across Caledon to help those in need.

In addition to the 4,600 lbs of food that donated to Caledon Community Services, a collection of 16 hats, scarves and mittens were also donated from the event.

These items included seven chemo hats for cancer patients, eight comfy cases for children in hospital, and 91 preemie hats for the local NICU were among the other handmade items.

In past years, the Charity section started with just chemo hats but has grown significantly into other areas.

Trudy Burnside, one of the volunteers who oversees all of Homecraft, said that they were approached by the Fair Board asking if they had any new ideas and Burnside expressed the interest in expanding the section.

Two other items that were part of the charity section this year were Fidget Mats for those living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, and Knitted Knockers for mastectomy survivors.

Burnside explained that Fidget Mats had buttons, zippers, Velcro, etc. sewn onto sleeves to keep the patients from fidgeting with their IVs and keep them from pulling it.

Burnside said the idea came from a woman who runs the arts and crafts section.

"Apparently, Alzheimer's patients like to fidget, and they might have an IV in their arms and sometimes they're fiddling with their IV. By having the fidget sleeve, it goes over their IV so they don't mess with [the line] and it gives them something to fidget with… Apparently it is quite effective and we're hoping to have even more next year," said Burnside.

The Knitted Knockers were added for those who have had mastectomies but either decided against getting a prothesis, or cannot afford it. The Knitted Knockers organization has a pattern for those that want to create them.

Burnside said that the Knitted Knockers have been part of the charity section for years and all the pieces donated get sent to the Knitting Basket in Rosemont, where they will be stuffed and sent out to those who need them.

When selecting which items would be part of the section, Burnside said they are always looking for new ideas.

"We like to support local and supporting organizations such as Caledon Community Services where we can provide hats, mitts and scarves for the winter. We've always done chemo hats and added the Knitted Knockers because they were interesting," said Burnside. "If we were to add another idea to our book and we get no entries then we know that no one is interested, but if we get a large number of entries like our preemie hats this year, we know people are interested."

Burnside shared that if anyone has any further ideas to submit for next year that the Fair has not had in the past, their idea submissions are very welcome.

Overall, the new, expanded Charity Section was a large success with many items entered.

The Albion Bolton Agricultural Society says they are thankful to all the member of the community that have taken the time to create items to support charities and organizations.

For more information about the society, visit www.boltontractorpull.ca.



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO EXPROPRIATE LAND

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

In the matter of an application by The Corporation of the Town of Caledon for approval to expropriate land being described as part of Lots 20 and 21, Concession 4, East of Hurontario Street (Geographic Township of Chinguacousy), in the Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel for the purposes of implementing and constructing a municipal highway and other municipal purposes, and works ancillary thereto.

Notice is hereby given that application has been made for approval to expropriate the land described as follows:

> Part of Lots 20 and 21, Concession 4, East of Hurontario Street (Geographic Township of Chinguacousy), in the Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel, identified as the lands comprising Part A on the attached sketch, being part of the lands described in PIN 14347-0007 (LT).

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

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

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

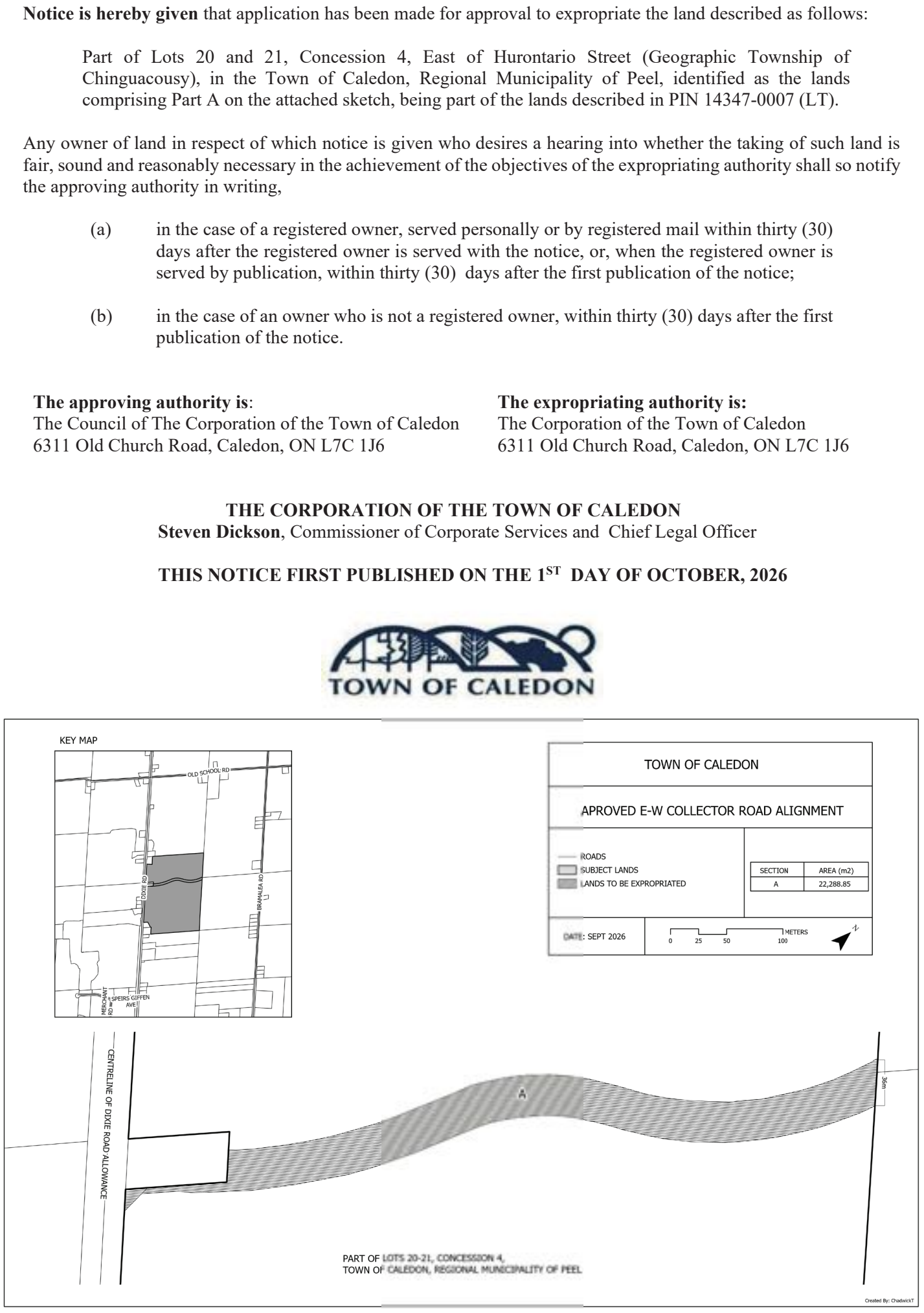
The approving authority is:
The Council of The Corporation of the Town of Caledon
6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, ON L7C 1J6

The expropriating authority is:
The Corporation of the Town of Caledon
6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, ON L7C 1J6

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON
Steven Dickson, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Legal Officer

THIS NOTICE FIRST PUBLISHED ON THE 1ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026

TOWN OF CALEDON



BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Autumn Rhythms

Whether or not you welcome the end of summer, I think we can all agree that there is something special about the early days of autumn.

The symphony of colours offered by our deciduous trees at this time of year never fails to stop me in my tracks to take a moment to appreciate its majestic beauty. It's an always-welcome reminder to take some time and take in the world around you when we're all-too-often focused on either getting to our destinations or the devices in the palms of our hands.

The crispness of the air is, from my perspective, a welcome relief from the heat and humidity which is so often a part of our summer experience – if only it would stay at this level just a little bit longer before Mother Nature starts letting the snow fly.

An additional selling point of this crisp early-autumn air is the slightly sweet and invariably earthy scent that often comes with it. This is, of course, the fragrance of decay as the aforementioned symphony tumbles to the ground with varying degrees of grace. It is yet another welcome reminder that the natural cycles and rhythms of our planet continue apace, despite what we throw at it collectively as a people.

This past Wednesday, the sweetness of the air was punctuated by the always evocative smell of wood smoke and sage as so many of us came together in different ways to mark National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day.

Morning flag-raisings at public buildings and sunset gatherings and ceremonies in the evening have become September 30's own rhythm since Orange Shirt Day was first established in 2013, following the advocacy of Phyllis Webstad, whose orange shirt was taken from her on her very first day in a Residential School, becoming a potent symbol of the atrocities that took place within the system. It has become an even greater part of our civic life since Orange Shirt Day became a statutory holiday for Federal workers in 2021 as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Each year, the observance begins with messages from leaders at all levels of government, with those from our Federal and Provincial governments often proving particularly telling.

"Today, we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, to honour the Survivors of the residential school system and remember the children who never returned home," said Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation in a joint statement. "While some might think of residential schools as a distant history, Canada's last Indian Residential School only closed 30 years ago….

"Our government continues to support community-led healing and commemoration through programs like the Indian Residential School Community Engagement Fund. By listening to and learning from Survivors, we can build a path forward rooted in mutual respect, awareness, and action… On this year's National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, let us take time to learn, reflect and work together to build a better future for everyone."

While the Province promised continued efforts, the Federal government addressed the 94 Calls to Action that came out of Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission and underscored the role of each Call to Action as forming a roadmap for the future.

"For more than a century, over 150,000 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children were separated from their parents, families, and communities and sent to residential schools," said Prime Minister Mark Carney in his statement. "The system was built on assimilation policies designed to sever children from their languages, cultures, identities, and ways of life. The federal government established and sustained this system, and Canada bears responsibility for the profound and enduring harm it caused.

"More than 6,600 Survivors and witnesses came forward before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to share painful realities Canada had too long ignored. Their courage ensured that Canada listened, remembered, and reflected. We owe Survivors more than remembrance. We owe them action. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action remain a roadmap for that work. In partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, our government is working to close long-standing gaps in health care and education, protect Indigenous languages and cultures, and advance safe drinking water and infrastructure in First Nations communities.

"We are advancing the Calls for Justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Today, Canadians will wear orange and participate in ceremonies to remember the children who never came home – and to honour the Survivors who told the truth so that all Canadians may take up the work of reconciliation."

It will be interesting – and, again, telling – to see how this roadmap is followed because another rhythm of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation has been the common refrain that so few of the 94 Calls to Action have been addressed by governments and citizens alike.

Aurora's gathering on September 30, for instance, was led by Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley, a prominent advocate across the Greater Toronto Area, as well as Elder Pat Floody. In her remarks, Wheatley touched upon the Calls to Action and how leaders have, more often than not, picked some of the easier actions rather than the more substantive ones.

"In 11 years, this country has maybe done 13 of the 94 Calls to Action. That's being generous, by the way. If you put that into a percentage point, 15 per cent of the 94 Calls to Action in 11 years have been addressed," she said. "In school, if you get 15 per cent on a test, you fail. Guess what, Canada – you fail, and they took all the low-hanging fruit. They didn't do the big, hard things like give us water. They did some of the easy stuff [like] declaring a date…. All Canadians should step forward and show us that they do care. All Canadians have a responsibility to ignite that flame of hope….

"I hope that what you heard here today gives you the courage, the momentum, and the belief to move forward, to step into the truth, whole and complete, to continue to learn and educate yourself. When you leave here today, I want you to leave better than when you came, but I want you to share with somebody who wasn't here. Find somebody. Talk to somebody about this. Stretch the message. Let it ripple out with your passion, your belief, your courage, and your truth."

While the rhythms of this time of year are always welcome, some – such as once again being reminded on the lack of progress in this area – can cause discomfort and that is welcome in its own way as discomfort can often serve as a catalyst for action.

One can only hope that when our communities once again convene on September 30, 2027, that we can point to examples of real, concrete action – and this kind of year-over-year progress becomes as ubiquitous and reliable at this time of year as the arrival of the crisp air and nature's colourful cavalcade.



Absorbing energy that's all around us

by Mark Pavilons



People are not plants.

While that may be obvious, we do share similarities.

German scientists, a decade ago, discovered that plants absorb "alternate sources of energy" from other plants. In fact, some plants will actually produce chemicals to help other nearby plants thrive, in what's known as bioenergy.

I am fascinated by research into how trees and fungi actually "communicate."

Modern ecology reveals that fungi networks link roots in massive, living webs, that allow trees to exchange resources, support and yes, information. Scientists now estimate that up to 80 per cent of trees in a forest are connected through these networks, or more comically, the "Wood-Wide Web."

Mycorrhizal fungi form symbiotic relationships with tree roots, trading soil nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen for sugars produced during photosynthesis.

Think about that for a moment. Trees and fungi working together, on an almost intelligent level, boosting each other's energy and sharing nutrients. That's crazy. This challenges traditional views of nature, and brings to mind that huge "Tree of Souls" or "Mother Tree" in the movie Avatar.

Our own First Nations people view trees and plants as essential. They provide food, shade, materials for shelter and items like arrows. Trees also provide medicines and offer "spiritual guidance."

First Nations, Inuit, and later Metis people truly connected with the Earth as their Mother. The natural world is considered home, and the rightful stance to take upon her is a respectful, interconnected one of stewardship and gratitude.

Let's face it, nature outweighs the human factor on this planet and we share an interconnected web of life. Balance and holistic harmony are essential in this knowledge and subsequent cultural practices.

And ironically, we've strayed. If our "foreign" ancestors had paid attention to Indigenous knowledge when they first arrived in Canada and other parts of the Americas, the current world would be much more harmonious, clean, and healthy.

Trees underpin human survival and planetary stability in deep ways. They pull carbon from the atmosphere, filter the air and water we depend on, cool cities, stabilize coastlines, and measurably lower the risk of dying from common diseases.

Recent studies in Switzerland and Chicago have even put numbers on the mortality reduction associated with neighborhood tree canopy, and the findings are striking enough to reframe urban tree planting as a public health intervention.

Trees influence rainfall, and they act as biological filters for both air and water.

Examples abound around the world on how people respect, interact with and embrace nature in their daily lives.

The Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku, or forest bathing, process of therapeutic relaxation where one spends time in a forest or natural atmosphere, focusing on sensory engagement to connect with nature.

One of my daughter's electives at college centres around the physical and mental benefits of being in nature, and the class involves excursions around the campus.

That's interesting, and I think our high schools should adopt such a class.

Our relationship with nature is one thing, but what about absorbing energy from other humans?

Scientists say our bodies act like sponges, but instead of feeding ourselves with nutrients, it's emotional energy we're looking for. Enjoying positive, happy energy from "shiny, happy people laughing" (R.E.M.) can increase our cortisol, which steroid hormone that your adrenal glands (the glands on top of your kidneys) make.

Cortisol affects several aspects of your health and helps regulate your body's response to stress.

We've likely all seen and felt this – being uplifted when surrounded by positivity, and then conversely, being dragged down when faced with negative energy.

Energy absorption, experts say, manifests in multiple forms, including light, heat, sound, and electromagnetic radiation. Now, do we actually "absorb" these energy fields through our skin or other senses? I'm no scientist, so I can't say how electrons and photons play with our bodies, or how electromagnetic fields influence our brains.

What I can say is there is mounting evidence that suggests things like sound waves and frequencies; various spectrums of light, and magnetic fields can impact, and improve our bodies' functions. Does anyone remember when "pyramid power" was all the rage in the 1970s? My dad made me one out of metal in his workshop and I kept it under my bed.

There's a ton of research and written material on how important it is to think positively and surround yourself with cheerful people. We all know someone like that and likely admire their upbeat nature. There's a certain person in this community who almost always says he's "stupendous" when asked how he's doing.

Keep it up!

For average folks, it's probably not hard to remain a bit gleeful or convivial. For others, especially those going through life-altering illnesses, it can be really tough.

But positivity helps fight cancer, doesn't it? So many cancer survivors swear that having a positive attitude got them through their battle.

I'm in the middle of mine, so I'll let you know how that turns out.

And I do realize that time and energy spent dwelling on the negative is wasted. It can permeate your body, and this energy – like that mentioned above – can be felt by others around you.

I often think of how wonderful it would be to tap into other's peoples joyous energy, almost like a blood transfusion, to become more chipper and grateful. Maybe a scientist somewhere is working on that.

Maybe we can all start (myself included) by being a bit less gloomy, and more sunny with those around us. Even at my age, I have much to learn.

From the ground, through our feet, to the top of our heads, let's keep the energy from Mother Earth flowering. And let's spread it like manure!



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Zach Shoub
zach@lpcmedia.ca

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Tanya Sharma
tanyas@lpcmedia.ca

EDITOR
Brock Weir
brock@lpcmedia.ca

REPORTERS
Kathryn Fraser
kathryn@lpcmedia.ca

MOTORING
Heather Erwin
heather@caledoncitizen.com

SPORTS
Jim Stewart
jim@lpcmedia.ca

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

PRODUCTION
John Speziali
production@simcoeyorkprinting.com

DISTRIBUTION
Sheila Ogram
sheila@lpcmedia.ca

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30 Martha Street Suite #205, Bolton L7E 5V1 • Ph: 905-857-6626 • Toll Free: 1-888-557-6626 • Fax: 905-857-6363 • www.caledoncitizen.com • www.facebook.com/caledoncitizen1

SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



Thanksgiving and turkey

As you read this, the advance voting poll locations are set to open, giving Caledon residents, including university students returning home for Thanksgiving, their first opportunity to cast a vote in what has become a very divisive campaign. It's also a time for many of us to express gratitude for what we have and to give back, if we are able, to those who need a little helping hand. As well, this beautiful place called Caledon, comprising nine official hamlets and villages (and one decent-sized town) has given us a lot to be thankful for, but as I've said before, there's also a lot on the line. This election is pivotal in determining whether Caledon residents will indeed have something to continue being thankful for when it's all over. Today's topic? It's almost turkey time so this is your reminder to count your blessings, and make your vote count. Oh yeah, and don't be a turkey when it comes to casting your ballot. Vote early, vote wisely, vote anywhere in Caledon, vote in the advance polls or vote on October 26t.

Let's start with welcoming home those who ventured off to school in September and might just be returning for the first time. Talk to the young adults in your home this Thanksgiving and encourage them to exercise their civic right to vote. Whether they are concerned about access to recreation and fitness, public libraries, or driving on safe roads, the municipal level of government plays a role, and young adults should too. Their role is to vote. Set an example for them by voting yourself.

We know you're probably grateful the kids are home and Thanksgiving is the perfect time to express that gratitude, hopefully sharing some time together over turkey with all the trimmings. There's still time for you to also help out our neighbours who might not have the same bounty at their table.

The Exchange is accepting thanksgiving food support and donations at their location, 55 Healey Road, if you're in a position to help. You can drop off your donation on your way to vote on October 9 with advance polls located in Wards 4, 5, and 6. On October 10, you can vote in advance polls located in Wards 1, 2, and 3. Related, we should all be grateful for the right to vote in the first place. It's a privilege denied many around the world.

On with the turkey talk. It's not hard to draw a parallel between a turkey scrambling around in an attempt to avoid the guillotine and some candidates acting similarly. Same goes for all the nonsense surrounding election signs, which even seems to have impacted our neighbours to the north who aren't waiting for by-law enforcement, but instead using their own ring cameras to report sign stealers and/or defacers. Speaking of scrambling, there's not that much time left for candidates to earn your vote and every single ward has important issues candidates must address.

That said, unless I'm very much mistaken, at least when it comes to Mayoral candidates, only one seems to have remembered to canvass at the door, drop off flyers and/or meet with interested groups of people in my ward. Given that I live in a ward considered pivotal to the future development of Caledon I find that alarming! It's the same (and only) candidate who showed up consistently in the past, calling for protections for Swan Lake, and who has announced publicly they aren't accepting developer dollars during this campaign. We need a Mayor for ALL of Caledon, I hope the other four candidates remember that.

Finally, what with it being Thanksgiving and all, I'd like to express my gratitude to the Town for a lovely event hosted a couple of weeks ago. Tony Rosa, acting on behalf of the Mayor, spent the evening recognizing groups of individuals who have volunteered their time and efforts over the past four years, through their participation on town committees. As a grateful recipient of a certificate myself, it was heartwarming to be thanked, and to see my fellow citizens recognized for their efforts too. I even had the chance to meet up with some old friends. Certificates of Recognition were given out to a number of Caledon residents for their work including on files such as illegal truck yards, aggregate, the Library Board and the Age-Friendly Advisory Committee who were responsible for recommending to Council that free access to recreation and wellness centres for seniors just made good sense, making that another thing to be grateful for!

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and so is the election. They say family, holidays and politics are not a good mix, but I would argue that this year, it's the ideal time to talk about politics. With pits, quarries, dangerous roads, Strong Mayor Powers and the rapid influx of housing and industrial development planned for Caledon, we need to have the best voter turnout ever. Get informed, do your homework, encourage your friends, your kids, or your parents, to take advantage of advance polls to vote early, or vote on October 26.

Either way - just vote!

Comment

Real journalists matter in an AI world

BY PAUL DEEGAN
PRESIDENT & CEO
NEWS MEDIA CANADA

An algorithm can decide what you see, but it doesn't report the news. Nunatsiaq News, an award-winning newspaper in Nunavut, recently reported that a so-called "news" website was posting AI-generated articles about the North by stealing real news stories produced by real journalists.

The articles were supposedly written by Nunavut correspondent Leah Qammaniq – a fake journalist, with a fake photo, and a fake bio.

The Right Honourable Louise Arbour warned us of fake news in her installation speech as Governor General. She said, "We must continue to protect the public space in which our national debates take place: from schools and universities to the media, political parties, unions and civil society organizations …With instant access to vast amounts of information, it is very tempting to pay little attention to the reliability of sources. The lines between knowledge and belief, between truth and falsehood, between facts and assumptions, are increasingly blurred. AI could be threatening not only the way we live and work, but also the control we exercise over our own destiny."

The Government of Canada has recognized the problem as well. Its recent discussion paper, Enhancing trust in artificial intelligence through increased transparency, stated, "Canadians encounter news reporting, product reviews, and audio-visual content across the internet, often without any indication of whether it was written by a person, generated by an AI system, or produced through some combination of both…A particular concern within this broader landscape is that generative AI greatly enables the creation and dissemination of deceptive or misleading content."

Yet, the federal government hasn't taken any action when it comes to the brazen theft of news content by AI companies. Indeed, its highly anticipated Canada's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy: AI for All didn't mention the word "copyright" – not even once. At the same time, according to a survey conducted for News Media Canada, 78 per cent of Canadians say they are concerned about fake news and disinformation, underscoring the growing value of credible, professionally produced journalism.

In the face of misinformation and disinformation and threats to Canadian sovereignty, identity, and unity, there is an urgent need to protect and control Canadian trusted, verified IP and to keep its value in Canada for Canadians.

Fact-based, fact-checked trusted journalistic content is vital to a healthy democracy, and there are concrete steps that can be taken to safeguard this pillar of our democracy. First, clearly and unequivocally state that there will be no text and data-mining exception. Second, use the power of the federal procurement purse to ensure these companies stop stealing creator content through robust supplier commitments. Third, align with the UK competition authority's approach, which gives publishers an opt-out to control how news content is surfaced in Google's AI answers. Fourth, have the Minister of Industry direct the Competition Bureau to conduct a market study into Google's AI/search crawler. Fifth, introduce and pass bad bot legislation similar to the Stealth Bot Prohibition Act, which is currently before the U.S. Congress.

National Newspaper Week 2026 (Oct. 4-10) celebrates the people behind the news and reminds Canadians that trusted journalism is produced by real journalists, who report, investigate, verify, and write it. This year's program introduces "Al Gorithm," a fictional character that highlights an increasingly important distinction: an algorithm can decide what you see, but it doesn't sit through a council meeting, interview a local business owner, cover a championship game or hold decision-makers accountable.

With the industrial scale theft of copyright-protected news content by AI companies and threats to our cultural and digital sovereignty from the U.S., our federal government can help sustain real journalism by real journalists by maintaining the Online News Act (which is seeing $100 million flowing annually from Google to news businesses), maintaining the Canadian Journalism Labour Tax Credit at 35 per cent, maintaining the Local Journalism Initiative, and earmarking 25 per cent of federal advertising spending to trusted news outlets.

Digital and cultural sovereignty matter. Canadian stories matter. Facts matter. Real journalists matter.

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Caledon Is My Home.

Ward 4 Is Where I Want to Serve.

After 12 years of serving in municipal government, my wife and I have chosen to make Caledon our home, and I have put my name forward to serve as Ward 4 Councillor.

MY connection to Caledon did not begin with this election. My family has owned property in Caledon since 1996, giving us a connection to the community that now spans three decades. Over the past several years, I have also attended Caledon Council meetings in person to better understand the Town, the issues before Council and the challenges facing its communities.

More recently, my wife and I purchased a home here. Caledon is where we have chosen to live and build the next chapter of our lives.

I had already registered to seek re-election in Brampton. Although I could have continued that campaign, I did not believe it was right to ask Brampton residents for another four-year mandate while planning to make my home elsewhere. I therefore withdrew from the election and resigned from Council.

It was not a decision I made lightly. I will always be grateful to the Brampton residents who placed their confidence in me beginning in 2014 and gave me the privilege of representing them for 12 years.

Those years taught me that public service is not about a title. It is about standing up for the people you represent. There have been more occasions than I can count when I have taken a different position from Council, questioned spending that I believed required greater scrutiny, or stood up for residents in matters involving developers or other levels of government. I have consistently advocated for residents, responsible use of taxpayers' money, our environment and the protection of established communities.

My approach to residents has always been personal. When someone contacts me with a problem, I do not believe the conversation should simply continue through emails. Whenever possible, I speak with them directly by telephone or visit them in person. Seeing a problem firsthand and speaking directly with those affected often provides a better understanding of the issue and helps us work toward a resolution.

I bring that same approach to taxpayers' money. Government must invest in infrastructure and essential services, but elected officials must also be willing to question unnecessary expenditures. Having an approved budget does not mean every available dollar needs to be spent.

That experience is particularly relevant as Caledon grows. New development brings opportunity, but it must be accompanied by appropriate infrastructure and careful consideration of existing communities, taxpayers, farmland and the natural environment.

I also recognize that 12 years of municipal experience elsewhere does not entitle me to anyone's vote in Caledon.

That trust must be earned.

My decision to seek this position is not about a title or a paycheque. The role carries substantially lower remuneration than my previous position. I am seeking it because my wife and I have chosen Caledon as our home, and I want to put my experience to work for the people who live here.

I am proud of my years of service in Brampton. That experience shaped the way I serve.

Now I want to put it to work for Ward 4.
Caledon is home. Ward 4 is where I want to serve.

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BUSINESS

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Women Focus Canada leads entrepreneurs, leaders through AI in business

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



PHOTO BY KATHRYN FRASER

The Women Focus Canada Team held an event called the AI Advantage Experience on September 26, offered to small business owners and entrepreneurs that were interested in learning more about AI.

The event brought together several entrepreneurs, professionals, community leaders, and technology experts to share their knowledge.

Women Focus Canada was founded in 2018 by Dr. Oluremi Adewale with the mission to empower women to end poverty in Canada through resources, advocacy and community support, fostering equality, growth and lasting change.

The event was hosted at the Riverstone Community Centre in Brampton.

"We created this experience because AI is changing how we work and how we do business," said Dr. Adewale. "We believe that access to those tools should also come with an opportunity to understand it, practice with it, and discover what it can actually do for you."

The event featured multiple sections throughout the day serving as a hands-on workshop designed to teach participants practical ways to simplify their business, improve productivity by using AI tools and business technology.

"Today is more than just talking about AI. Our hope is that you leave today with a practical workflow, a useful prompt, a new tool, greater clarity about using AI in your business or even a new connection that moves you forward," said Dr. Adewale.

An Interactive Panel Conversation started off the morning where a group of AI and technology professionals, entrepreneurs and business leaders shared practical insights and real life experiences with using AI in both business and everyday life.

The panel featured Dr. Chinwe Sophia Onuorah from TEMCA Women Network, Berin Arikan, Registered Neurodiverse Dietician, Vishal Shrivastava from Alphavima Technologies, and Apoorva Shastry from Yspace ELLA Program.

Hosting the Panel was Women in Focus Canada's Osinachi Okey-Okore who asked panellists a number of questions regarding the implementation of AI in their businesses before opening it up to the audience to ask questions.

One important stand out question that was asked was if panellists could share a practical example of how AI has been used to solve an internal problem in their business.

While talking about her experience in using applications such as notetaker and other AI tools, Dr. Chinwe Sophia Onuorah's responded saying that is it important to ask the question of what is the problem that you need to solve and how can AI help.

She also expressed that when thinking of this answer it is important to also think of what the risk will be when using AI and that businesses and entrepreneurs need to be able to start small before jumping headfirst into AI.

"You need to think it through. The only thing that you should think about is how ready is your business for AI?", says Dr. Onuorah. "For example, if your business is heavy on process… that has a physical problem and it has to go from the order to the customer up to delivery, that is a whole process. Do you have a consistent sales process or workful process? Because if you are automated and your AI only knows to do this and this and this and this, if your process is changing every day…you have to have all of those processes documented."

The conversation then shifted over to the idea of trust in AI and heavy reliance of AI in which Berin Arikan shared her thoughts on things to remember when implementing AI.

"You are getting an assistant and not just becoming an assistant to technology," says Arikan.

Following the panel, there was a short break for lunch before attendees were led in a hands-on business technology session that focused on practical AI tools and everyday business technology.

They were also invited to watch live demonstrations of practical business scenarios as experts demonstrated how AI and technology could be an asset in simplifying marketing, communication and day-to-day business operations.

Concluding the day, participants were able to network and connect with other attendees and community partners taking part.

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Caledon Votes 2026

Community groups host final candidates meeting ahead of election

Continued from FRONT

Each candidate was given 60 seconds to answer each question with timekeepers flashing a yellow sign when candidates had 30 seconds left and a red flag once the candidate's allotted time was up.

The questions featured a variety of topics from illegal truck yards to growth to services being provided.

As was the case in past debates in this series, the candidates were led through a rapid-fire question round.

All Local and Regional candidates said they would reject the building of data centres, except for Madhok who said he would pause them.

Continuing on with the questions submitted by residents, one question that stood out was, "Caledon is growing rapidly but the services aren't keeping the pace. Research shows that's because the province isn't investing in services the way they do in comparable communities. How will you support efforts to get Queen's Park to invest here in community services?"

Maskell said this is a tough question for a local Councillor to answer because a lot of the services provided are through the Region of Peel. He said the Town has been working diligently in the areas that they do have jurisdiction over. Maskell went on to mention the creation of a recreation pass for seniors and veterans, as well as the opportunity that was created for tax credits for those 65+ with disabilities receiving an increase from $525 to $1,050. He also touched on the ARGO transit program that was rolled out last month.

Candidate Cameron spoke about the opportunity to establish a positive working relationship. He said that respectful disagreement is important, but it is also important to focus on they as Council connect with people who are making these decisions at the Province. Cameron then spoke about his experience as a School Board trustee where he was able to use the positive connections that he had created to be able to find solutions for problems. When looking for money for building schools, he explained that he had to ask for help through these connections. Cameron said he wants to be able to work with Council and the province and have a voice through positive working relationships to get what he needs for the residents.

Candidate Grewal agreed that proper advocacy is very crucial. She focused on the issue of lack of healthcare facilities and how many people have to go to nearby towns and cities for these services. Because of this, Grewal once again expressed the need for advocacy and that asking the right level of government would be her approach.

Candidate Sheen spoke on his past experience as Caledon's Alternate Regional Councillor when the Metamorphosis Network brought a report forward on the gap between all services that are provided by the province and Peel relative to the other municipalities in Ontario. He reflected that in Council he spoke about how it was an issue when he moved to Caledon 30 years ago and he said it continues to be an issue now. He added it is a recurring issue that over the last 30 years many municipalities in Peel had probably tried to address this issue and despite having strong relationships with MPPs there has been no change. He concluded his response that although he cannot explain the lack of change, he will certainly work hard to strengthen the relationships with the province.

Candidate Testani said what it comes down to is having the right person there to have the conversation with the province and having the right Council in place that works together and not divided. He expressed that it's important that the person that is put in the spot can work with everyone else and go to the province to show that we are together, we are one, ask the right questions and ask for the right support.

In his response, Candidate Halsall posed the question that wouldn't it be great if the government was a oiled machine, and responded by saying that in reality it is not and there is so much bureaucracy, red tape and everyone is on the ground level. He expressed that Council needs to work amongst themselves to make sure that they are united and highlighted the importance of having local Councillors keep in touch with Regional Councillors, and Regional Councillors keep in touch with the region, the province and, for other issues, the Federal government and other representatives.

Candidate Hepworth also said there needs to be a unified voice, a new strategy and for everyone to come together to think outside of the box because what's been in place is not working. Hepworth said that Caledon needs to have that conversation as a united Council that all works together with the help of staff and residents to come up with a strategy that works, to bring in the province so the community can get what is needed.

Candidate Parfitt agreed there needs to be stronger advocacy and that it needs to be done collaboratively as a whole Council together and to the Region. She shared there is also a need to communicate with the residents that this huge funding gap exists and that the Town is more underfunded than other nearby municipalities. Parfitt expressed it is important to increase communication so that residents understand the challenges they are facing so that everyone can work and advocate together.

Candidate Shahi said that growth should be advocated with infrastructure and she will advocate for growth to grow alongside infrastructure. She agreed that communication is very important to have and it is not just with the residents but with other members of Council and the Mayor.

Candidate Chahal said the province needs Caledon as a municipality as much as Caledon needs them, both have to work together in tandem, and that Caledon has resources they need. He explained that working with the MPP and MPs is needed so that residents can have much-needed services. Chahal said that it's not impossible and services that are being provided have to subject to sufficient spending at the same time.

Candidate Kahlon said that collaboration gets more done than concentrations so at the end of the day municipalities are just a product of the province and we need to work in collaboration with them so that we can get more for Caledon. He expressed that a team approach is needed and that Caledon must team up with the province to get things done.

Candidate Sekhon spoke about the 121,000 jobs coming to Caledon by 2051 and that the province will be getting a portion of money surrounding the corporate offices and buildings that will be added and that they should invest that money back into Caledon as the money is coming from a portion of Caledon.

Candidate Rakesh explained that Caledon is the fastest growing community in Ontario and that residents deserve their fair share of provincial investment. He agreed that all Council members, Mayor, and MPPs need to work together as well as have data representation to the province of what services are needed, such as health services, community services, and education, among others. Rakesh explained it will be a collective job for all to work together.

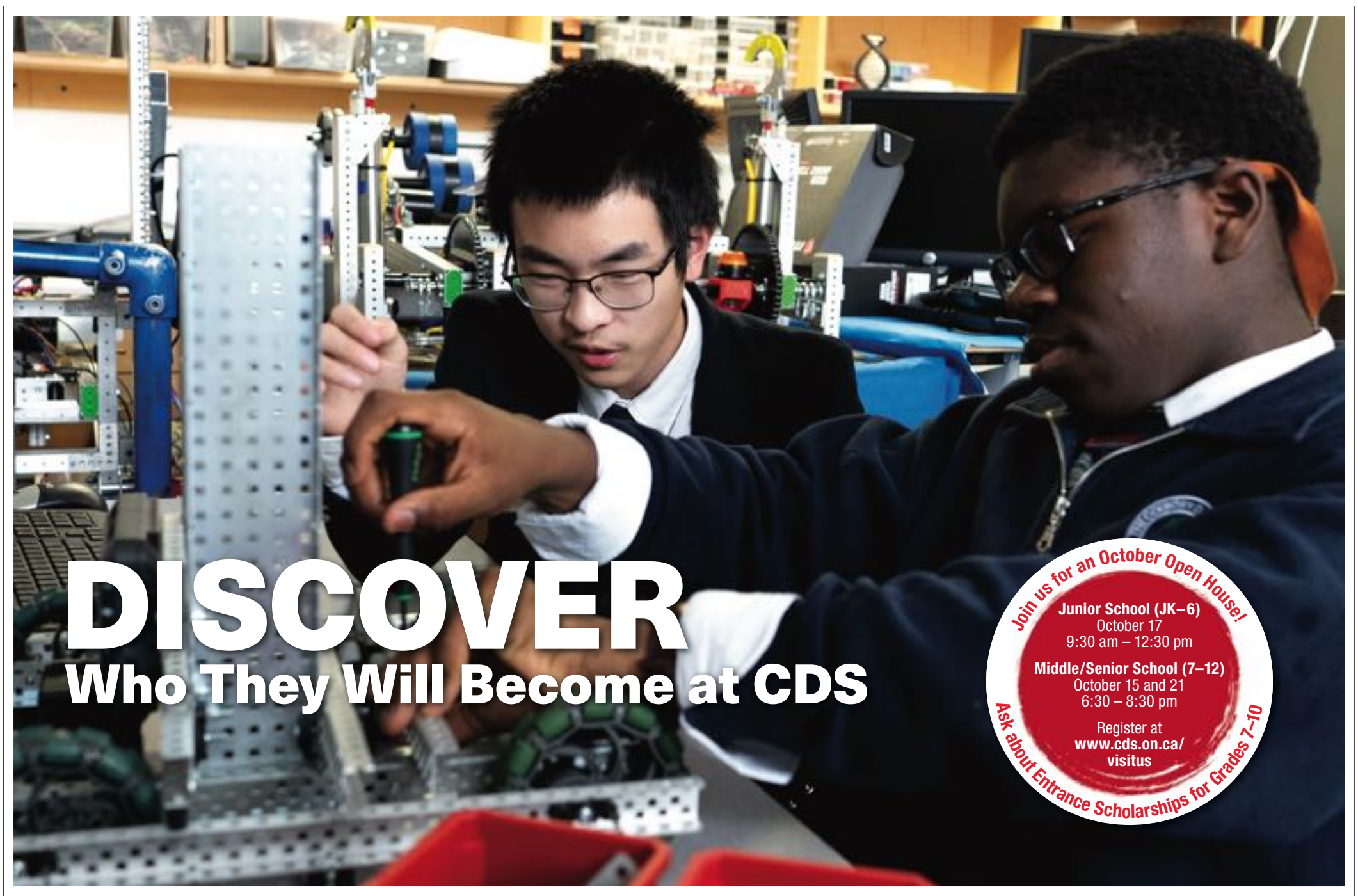
The conversation then followed back to the rapid fire round where candidates were asked several questions including, "Should there be revisions to the parking requirements as development stands, yes or no?"

All candidates were in agreement that there should be revisions.

After finishing all of the submitted questions, the moderator concluded the meeting by giving each candidate 2 minutes for their closing remarks.

For more information about the candidate meetings, the full debate will be coming to the Caledon Public Library YouTube account for residents to watch.





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Caledon Votes 2026

Meet Your Council Candidates: Diana Mollicone, Ward 5



DIANA MOLLICONE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Diana Mollicone has thrown her hat in the ring and is running to be the next Councillor for Ward 5 in the October 26 municipal election.

Mollicone says she is stepping up not to try to fix everything but instead help strengthen the communication between Council and the residents that municipal decisions affect.

"I'm not stepping forward because I think everything is broken and promise to fix it all. Municipal governance is complex and everyone cares deeply about where they live. I think our community is changing quickly with the impending growth, and many residents are feeling increasingly disconnected," says Mollicone. "I am stepping forward because I want to bridge the gap by making municipal issues understandable, support a stronger sense of connection, and ensure that Caledon continues growing in a way where people still feel they belong here."

Mollicone says she believes Ward 5 needs a Councillor who not only has the background but the effort to also stay connected within the community.

"Ward 5 is Caledon's most densely populated ward, home to a significant portion of the business community, and slated for growth and intensification," says Mollicone. "I believe Ward 5 will benefit from someone with a technical background to dissect the planning information, understanding of business management to know what is means to balance a budget, and that's rooted in ground-level community conversations so residents feel they can easily relate to their Councillor as it is their first point of contact."

Prior to the election, Mollicone has a combination of 10 years of progressive engineering experience in mechanical design-build and construction project management. She is also the owner-operator of Coffee Time Bolton which she navigated through the pandemic and continues to manage budgets and employees while giving back to her community.

"Further, being behind the counter, you hear what people are worried about and where they feel the community is falling short. I feel my accessibility as a local business owner tied with my technical background will make me an effective Councillor in the sense of pairing practical feasibility with being socially in-tune," says Mollicone.

When it comes to Caledon, Mollicone says she understands that each area shares both similar and diverse challenges and she wants to be able to advocate for Ward 5 and make sure that all residents feel that they have a voice.

"Different areas of Caledon have different priorities, and they all deserve attention. Illegal truck yards may be concentrated around Bolton, but those trucks travel Highway 10 and roads across the Town. As mentioned, Ward 5 is also the most densely populated and home to a significant share of Caledon's business community. Supporting its infrastructure and economic health benefits all of Caledon," says Mollicone. "I intend to bring that same perspective to issues affecting every ward. I'll keep Bolton's needs front and centre, come prepared with facts and practical solutions, and do the work to build support around the Council table."

To make sure that all residents stay connected and involved, Mollicone says she believes that communication is very important and wants to make sure to utilize as many areas as possible.

"I intend to use social media more extensively to create short videos and photo-carousels to help residents understand what is happening. I intend to reach out to community groups as well to ensure that key information reaches as many people as possible," says Mollicone.

When looking at challenges that Ward 5 is facing Mollicone says one key challenge she has identified is truck traffic.

"Both illegal land use and the pressure growth is putting on our roads. Warehousing and logistics have grown quickly, but our infrastructure hasn't kept pace," says Mollicone. "I'll push to get critical road upgrades moving faster while continuing to strengthen enforcement against illegal operators. That means using every tool available to the Town, including entrance blocking and administrative penalties that don't require us to wait years for a court outcome."

In keeping with this challenge, Mollicone says she has several priorities that she will address if elected.

"My main priorities will be to continue the ongoing battle with the truck-traffic and illegal land-use. My other key priorities are support for local businesses, properly phasing the incoming growth, youth opportunities, and accessibility – all while respecting taxpayers," says Mollicone.

For Mollicone it's not just about advocating for change, it's about the people in her community.

"What I love most about Ward 5 is the people. I am serious. When our kids do lemonade stands, we gladly pay $10 for 4oz of room-temperature lemon-water. When our neighbours lose their pets, we have find parties. When our youth leagues make it to the play-offs, we cheer them on whether our kids are playing on them or not. I remember my old neighbour on her last day before moving admitting, 'I will never have neighbours like this again.' Bolton has its flaws but the people make me fall in love with it over and over again."

At the end of the day, Mollicone says she wants to be able to advocate for her community and is hoping that residents of Ward 5 will put their trust in her to be the next Councillor of Ward 5.

"I respect anyone for throwing their hat in the ring. It's a lot of work, you need to re-arrange your home life, and canvassing can be a mixed bag of reactions. Candidates should put their trust in me because my track record shows I am doing this for the right reason and that I am running on a fully independent platform. I am Team Bolton, I am Team Caledon, I am Team Community."

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Caledon Votes 2026

Meet Your Council Candidates: Cheryl Connors, Ward 4

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Cheryl Connors is running to be the next Councillor for Ward 4 in October 26 municipal election.

"I'm running because I believe Ward 4 needs a strong, experienced and informed voice at Council during a time of unprecedented change," she says. "I have spent years actively involved in Caledon's planning, environmental, health and safety issues, attending Council and Public Information Meetings, delegating, participating in consultations, committees, and working groups, and advocating for our community.

"I'm running because I believe the decisions being made today will shape Ward 4 for generations, and residents deserve a Councillor who is prepared to ask tough questions, understand the issues and put the public interest first."

Advocating for the community and working towards change doesn't just start now for Connors she has been doing the work for many years. Working alongside many dedicated and knowledgeable members of our community, Connors says she has helped achieve important results, including:

- Stopping the proposed massive below-the-water-table expansion of the Brock aggregate pit in Palgrave;
- Protecting water by advocating successfully for the cleanup of the Lions Demolition site, which had contaminated local wells, by pressing the Town of Caledon, the Region of Peel and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to take action;
- Helping secure the Town of Caledon's declaration of a Road Safety Emergency in 2025, bringing greater attention and urgency to the serious road safety challenges facing the community;
- Advocating for stronger protection of air quality, resulting in Council's unanimous 2026 decision to move forward with the creation of an air quality bylaw.

With her experience and track record, Connors says she wants to be able to continue and make change and believes that becoming a Councillor will give her that chance.

"These aren't just positions I've taken during an election campaign. They represent years of showing up, doing the research, working with residents and pushing for action when I believed something was important to the health, safety and future of our community. I don't just talk about advocacy. I have a proven record of getting results," says Connors. "Most importantly, I understand how municipal decisions affect residents because I have been actively engaged in those decisions for years. There would be no learning curve—I'm ready to get to work on Day One."

For Connors, being accessible and transparent is one of her commitments if elected Councillor and a way that Connors will be able to make sure that all candidates feel heard. She says she hopes to do this by establishing regular opportunities where residents can connect and share their concerns and thoughts including holding community meetings and having regular communications about what's happening at Town Hall.

"I would make a point of hearing from residents across the ward—not just the people who agree with me. Good representation means listening to different perspectives, explaining the issues honestly and making sure concerns are brought forward to Council," says Connors. "I also believe residents should understand why decisions are being made, not simply find out how their Councillor voted after the fact."

To be accessible to all residents Connors says she hopes to be able to improve communication by making it a priority.

"I would make communication a priority rather than an afterthought. Residents should not have to chase their Councillor for information or wonder whether their concerns have been heard. I would commit to responding to resident emails and phone calls within two business days," says Connors. "I would also provide regular newsletters and community meetings so residents know what is happening at Council, what decisions are coming up and how those decisions could affect Ward 4."

For Connors, one of the biggest challenges facing Ward 4 is managing the scale and speed of growth while ensuring the infrastructure and services needed to support it are properly planned and funded.

"The province is transferring additional responsibilities to Caledon, including Regional roads and water and wastewater services, along with the associated costs. At the same time, massive development is moving forward. We have to make sure we understand who is paying for the infrastructure required to support that growth. We cannot ask today's taxpayers to shoulder the cost of future growth," says Connors. "I will push for responsible planning, financial transparency, infrastructure that keeps pace with development, and decisions that protect the health, safety and quality of life of Ward 4 residents."



CHERYL CONNORS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In addition to working towards this challenge Connors has three main priorities if elected.

- Respect taxpayers: "We can't leave existing residents paying for the infrastructure required by new development."
- Protect our community: "We must manage growth while safeguarding health, safety, rural character and quality of life."
- Put residents first: "I pledge to be accessible, communicate clearly and bring residents' voices to Town Hall."

"Above all, my priority would be asking a simple question about every major decision: Does this serve the public interest and the people of Ward 4?" says Connors.

Cheryl Connors says she wants to be able to continue to advocate for the community and hopes that voters will put their trust in her to become the next counsellor of Ward 4.

"Trust has to be earned. I believe residents can look at my record rather than simply take my word for it. For years, I have shown up, spoken out, asked the tough questions and advocated for Caledon. I have taken positions on difficult issues even when doing so wasn't necessarily the easiest thing to do. If elected, residents can expect me to be accessible, prepared and accountable. I will listen to them, tell them the truth and make decisions based on what I believe is in the best interests of Ward 4," says Connors. "I'm not asking residents to trust me because I'm making promises during an election. I'm asking them to look at the work I've already done and judge me by that record."

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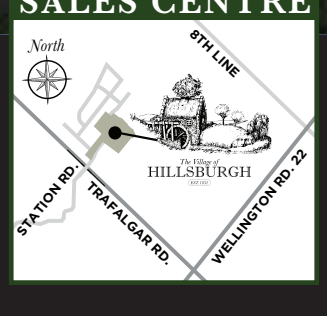
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Caledon Votes 2026

Meet Your Council Candidates: Doug Maskell, Ward 3



DOUG MASKELL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Incumbent Ward 3 Councillor Doug Maskell is seeking re-election to continue in the role he has held for the last four years.

"I am seeking re-election based on a four-year record of drafting, tabling and passing motions, such as, to: provide a free 65+ seniors' recreation pass, institute truck and traffic calming in Caledon East, build a Town Square in downtown Caledon East, establish a Tax Stabilization Reserve to reduce taxes, create a Lobbyist Registry to ensure transparency at Town Hall, and regulate data centre construction in Caledon," says Maskell.

Maskell says this will be the second time Ward 3 will get the chance to elect a Councillor to represent their Ward instead of being joined with Ward 4 as they were prior to the 2022 election.

He says he believes Ward 3 will continue to benefit from another term with him as their representative.

"In 2022, after almost 20 years of being joined with Ward 4, the people of Ward 3 had the opportunity to elect a Councillor to represent them. In that election, almost 42 per cent of voters supported my candidacy. I believe that Ward 3 would benefit from four more years of my leadership, dedication and experience on Council," says Maskell. "Over the past four years, I have seen and dealt with issues relating to planning, development, intergovernmental affairs, finance, law enforcement and environmental issues. I am a Councillor who has successfully worked with Town staff, Regional staff, Provincial officials and Ministers and other local municipal leaders to advocate for Caledon and the residents of Ward 3."

Throughout his time as Councillor Maskell has taken many steps to support both the interests of Ward 3 and serve Caledon as a whole. He believes that his past experiences in this role demonstrate his abilities and effectiveness as a Councillor.

"Over my past term, I have balanced the interests of Ward 3, while serving all of Caledon", says Maskell. "For Ward 3, I, for example, supported the construction of the Caledon East Sports Dome, the completion of the Caledon East Dog Park, changing the speed limits on Airport Road and Old Church Road, and installation of traffic signals at Walker Road and Airport Road. For all residents of Caledon, I put forward motions at Council to increase tax assistance to seniors and those with disabilities, to increase the Outdoor Maintenance Program, to create free 65+ Seniors and Veterans Recreation passes and to oppose the construction of Highway 413 under Bill 212. I believe these experiences demonstrate my effectiveness as a Councillor."

For Maskell, it is very important to keep residents informed and engaged. Using various areas of communication, Maskell says that he has been an effective communicator and a strong voice for the residents in Ward 3.

"Over the past four years, as Councillor, I have kept residents informed and engaged by returning phone calls, responding to emails and posting on my Instagram and Facebook accounts," says Maskell. "Over the past four years, I drafted and printed annual Ward 3 updates that were placed in local businesses. These annual Ward 3 updates were also emailed to residents on my distribution list. I also emailed quarterly and sometimes monthly updates on what was happening in the Ward and at Council. I attended public meetings, open houses and meetings requested by constituents to engage with residents on issues impacting Ward 3 and all of Caledon."

Maskell also expresses that through communication between residents and Council it is important to be rooted in trust and transparency, which he will continue to follow if re-elected.

"Throughout this term of Council, I have worked diligently to increase transparency and accountability on Council and ensure that resident concerns and issues were addressed and resolved in a timely manner," says Maskell. "As Vice Chair of the Governance Review Committee, I was committed to revising the Procedural By-Law to make Council decisions and processes more open to the public. I am looking forward to the launch of the new Town of Caledon website, which will be more informative and user-friendly for residents."

When looking at the challenges that Ward 3 is currently facing, Maskell identifies four that he wants to provide solutions for:

- Institute a permanent truck prohibition in Caledon East when the Regional Roads, Airport Road and Old Church Road, are downloaded to the Town, in July 2027. "I will bring a motion to Council to ask for a permanent prohibition of trucks in Caledon East.";
- Investigate the potential creation of a Business Improvement Association (BIA) in Caledon East, through discussions with local businesses, the Bolton BIA, Caledon Chamber of Commerce and Town of Caledon Economic Development staff. "This could strengthen and promote local businesses.";
- Create a Rural Roads Traffic Calming strategy with the guidance of Town of Caledon Transportation Engineering staff, Caledon OPP, Councillors, and residents. "Rural roads must be safe for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. A comprehensive plan is needed to implement measures to reduce speeding, distracted driving and impaired driving across Caledon.";
- Maintain the fiscal discipline demonstrated over this past term of Council, "as Town of Caledon tax increases were maintained at the rate of inflation. I will continue to: analyze the budgets line by line; request that Town reserves be used in a responsible manner to mitigate the tax burden; and work with our Provincial and Federal partners to access funds for capital projects.

Continued on Page B7

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- Albion-Bolton Community Centre
- Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness*

OCTOBER 10, 2026, FROM 11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

- Alton Library
- Southfields Community Centre*
- Caledon East Community Complex*

OCTOBER 18, 2026, FROM 11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

- Victoria Parks Community Centre
- Albion-Bolton Community Centre
- Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness*

OCTOBER 19, 2026, FROM 1:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

- Inglewood Community Centre
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Duffy Homestead celebrates fourth Irish Pioneer Harvest Festival

BY KATHRYN FRASER
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon's Duffy Homestead recently celebrated its fourth annual Irish Pioneer Harvest Festival.

This event, held on September 20, was held to celebrate shared harvest and bounty of the year as well as Irish Heritage.

The festival was filled with Irish dancing, the serving of apple cider, and a celebration of the harvest including samples of honey, maple syrup, and apples that attendees had the opportunity to purchase.

The story of Duffy Homestead started when Eliza Duffy acquired the property after arriving in Canada with her children in 1832.

Since then, Eliza's legacy has continued and been passed down through generations, which has now led to Alan Duffy a seventh-generation descendant that acquired Duffy Homestead back in 2018.

Owner of Duffy Homestead and Chairman of Duffy Heritage Foundation Alan Duffy explained that this year was different from past celebrations as it was the 160th anniversary of the Fenian Raids, which were a series of movements between 1866 and 1871 where Irish rebels invaded Canada and tried to take it over to get independence from Great Britain.

To commemorate the event, Duffy Homestead had soldiers from the Queen's Own Rifles and the Royal Hamilton Infantry, which was the 13th Battalion, attend the event and fire off cannons in commemoration of those that fought.

Also in attendance was MPP for Dufferin Caledon Sylvia Jones, Cabinet Minister Todd McCarthy, Irish Ambassador to Canada John Concannon, the Irish Consul General of Ireland in Toronto, Caledon Council members and local historical groups including Heritage Caledon and the Albion Bolton Historical Society.

Duffy says that although this is a private event, they are looking to expand the event to have a separate day that is open to the community.

Looking to next year's event, Duffy says he hopes to make it special as they approach the 180th anniversary of the Famine.



MPP Sylvia Jones, Alan Duffy, Minister Todd McCarthy are pictured at this year's Festival.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Those interested in learning more about Duffy Homestead and the activities such as tours both of the grounds and of the museum can visit duffyhomestead.ca.

Council candidates identify top environmental priorities in their Wards

Continued from Page A2

Doug Maskell: "The top environmental concern for Ward 3 is the negative impact of illegal land use. People often view illegal land uses such as trucking operations, trailer storage and event centres as traffic safety or noise issues, but they are a threat to our environment. One of the first steps in creating an illegal operation is the importation of fill and gravel to cover what is often prime agricultural land. This destroys the productive capacity of the land for future generations. In addition, diesel fuel, oil, anti-freeze and other fluids leach into the ground and contaminate the local groundwater sources. This term of Council, the number of illegal land use operations was reduced by almost 75%. We established an Illegal Land Use Task Force (ILUTF) that led to numerous fines and successful prosecutions. Lastly, we look forward to amendments to the Planning Act that will target operations on land not zoned for industrial use."

Ward 4

Heather French: "Illegal dumping on our back roads is a big environmental problem because it ruins public spaces, harms wildlife, and costs taxpayers' money. If elected, I will tackle this by pushing for stricter fines for illegal dumping and organize free community disposal days so residents can get rid of large items safely and easily."

Cheryl Connors: "My top environmental concern is the cumulative threat to Ward 4's soil, groundwater and natural environment from commercial fill, potential blasting quarries, inappropriate development and illegal land uses. Proposed changes to Caledon's Site Alteration Bylaw could allow large commercial fill operations, raising concerns about contaminated soil entering our community. The addition of bedrock areas in Mono Mills to the Town's aggregate mapping also raises the prospect of blasting quarries near residents and sensitive groundwater sources. I will oppose expanding commercial fill permissions, oppose applications for blasting quarries, and advocate for the protection of agricultural and environmentally sensitive lands in development applications. I will press for independent scientific review, consideration of cumulative impacts, meaningful public consultation and stronger enforcement against illegal land uses. Residents deserve clear information, timely responses and public reporting on monitoring and enforcement. Protecting our water, land and health must guide Council's decisions, rather than reacting after damage occurs."

Paul Parete: "My primary environmental concern in Ward 4 is the risk to groundwater quality and ecosystem health caused by development, aggregate mining, and soil-filling operations. Because Ward 4 relies heavily on private wells and local watersheds, direct impacts on the water table can affect drinking water and regional ecosystems. If elected, I would: Strengthen Site Alteration Oversight – Advocate for strict limits and rigorous testing on soil import/fill projects near sensitive water tables or former quarries to prevent groundwater contamination; Protect Local Watersheds – Partner with local conservation authorities to advocate for buffer zones and monitor runoff into key water systems; Advocate for Responsible Growth – Push for sustainable planning that includes the ecosystem approach and cumulative impacts assessments."

(Pat Fortini did not respond by deadline)

Ward 5

Diana Mollicone: "My top environmental concern is how we manage stormwater and protect our natural drainage systems as Bolton continues to grow. More development means more hard surfaces, more runoff with less places to go which means more pressure on our infrastructure which has already suffered recent challenges. We need to make sure growth doesn't create problems that residents are left paying to repair later. I would support strong stormwater requirements for new development, including green infrastructure, catchment systems, and low-impact development, while ensuring our more mature neighbourhoods aren't forgotten. Caledon already has Green Development Standards addressing stormwater management, and I want to make sure those standards are implemented. Growth is coming, we all know that. My focus is making sure we build responsibly which includes protecting our waterways and planning for weather conditions we're actually going to face."

(Anthony Caputo and John Muir did not respond by deadline)

Ward 6

Cosimo Napoli: "My top environmental concern is protecting Ward 6 from the impacts of illegal trucking operations and inappropriate land uses. These operations can replace productive land with large areas of pavement and fill, while contributing to air, noise and light pollution and putting our soil, water and natural environment at risk. If re-elected, I will continue supporting strong enforcement against illegal operations while advocating for greater provincial enforcement powers and meaningful penalties that make non-compliance more costly than following the rules. I will also support the Town's work to identify appropriate locations for legitimate trucking businesses, keeping these uses away from sensitive environmental and residential areas. As Bolton and Caledon continue to grow, development cannot come at the expense of our environment. Growth must be responsible, infrastructure must keep pace, and our planning decisions must protect the land and natural resources we are leaving to future generations."

Carmela Palkowski: "My top environmental concern for Ward 6 is how Caledon will protect our farmland, greenspace and natural environment while managing exponential growth and the impacts of our current issues with illegal trucking. Residents are already dealing with concerns around noise, dust, pollution and vibration from increasing truck activity. At the same time, rapid development is putting additional pressure on farmland, natural areas, drainage and the overall character of our community. We need to fix these issues before adding thousands of new residents to our Municipality. We need to assess the cumulative impacts of traffic, construction and development on residents and the environment. Planning is working backwards. We need to protect before adding to the problem."

Regional Councillor, Wards 1, 2 & 3

Harpreet Grewal: "My top environmental concern is ensuring that Caledon's rapid growth does not come at the expense of our natural environment, green spaces and rural communities. As development continues across Wards 1, 2 and 3, we must carefully consider its impact on farmland, trees, waterways, stormwater management and areas already vulnerable to flooding. Growth must be responsible and supported by infrastructure that protects both residents and the environment. If elected, I will advocate for stronger environmental considerations in planning decisions, the protection of environmentally sensitive lands and green spaces, and improvements to drainage and stormwater infrastructure in communities experiencing flooding concerns. I will also push for development to include appropriate green infrastructure and responsible planning from the beginning, rather than addressing problems after they occur. Caledon can grow while protecting what makes our community special. My priority will be balancing responsible growth with environmental protection for current residents and future generations."

(Mauro Testani and Dave Sheen did not respond by deadline)

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How to create more interior space for the winter

After a summer and fall spent outdoors, winter drives many people back inside. Homeowners may take inventory of their interior spaces in winter and find that there isn't as much room as they would like. When entertaining inside, a home may feel particularly cramped.

CREATING AN OPEN, inviting indoor environment requires maximizing spatial design but not necessarily expanding square footage. By focusing on a few strategies, homeowners can maximize interior flow.

Change up the layout of furniture

Being able to move around a space more easily may come down to rethinking the furniture layout. Interior design experts often emphasize traffic flow in a space, which can determine how comfortable homeowners and their guests feel. Universal design methodologies point to establishing clear, unobstructed routes to link different zones of a room. This will minimize physical congestion in the space. When entertaining, homeowners can push larger pieces of furniture against the perimeter of a room to open up a centeral gathering area. Heavy coffee tables can be swapped out for smaller tables to allow the rearrangement of the layout depending on how many people are spending time in a given space.

Subdivide rooms

Open-concept spaces might have lost some their appeal in recent years. Designers are now going back in the direction of room-based layouts over open concepts, according to Martha Stewart and New York-based designer Madeline Merin. Some homeowners now have a greater need for definition of the spaces they have to work with. Instead of one open room, dividing the space can create the illusion of having more square footage while providing distinctive spots for privacy and other room functions. An open-concept family room, for example, can be divided into a gaming room on one side and a home office space on the other.

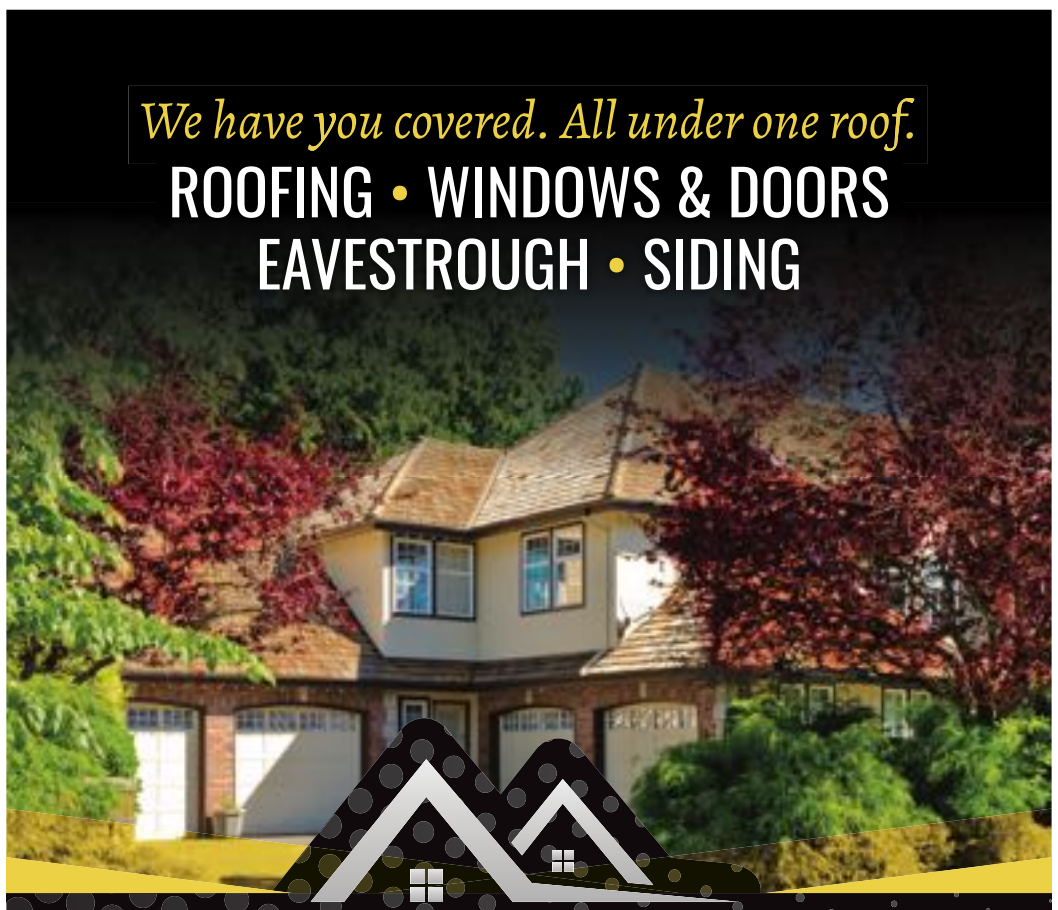
Change how spaces are perceived

Lighting and visual elements can make spaces feel more roomy and inviting even if they haven't gotten larger. Painting walls in soft tones will help them reflect more light, making boundaries feel like they are receding. Incorporating more natural light by removing heavy draperies is one strategy. According to the Journal of Biophilic Design, biophilic design is the intentional integration of nature into buildings and spaces to improve human health and productivity. Homeowners can incorporate natural lighting, living plants, organic materials, and organic patterns into their interior designs to make spaces feel more inviting.

Homeowners can look to various design strategies to open up interior spaces in their homes with a goal toward making them more comfortable places to ride out the winter.



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The benefits of a fall roof replacement

A roof is a vital component of a home that protects the structure from the elements and ensures that sun, rain, wind, and snow do not compromise the integrity of interior spaces.

The average asphalt shingle roof found on many homes lasts between 15 and 30 years. Alternative roofing materials, such as metal or clay tiles, can last much longer.

Homeowners who stay in a home for many years will likely need to replace a roof at some point. Choosing when to replace the roof may come down to selecting the right season. Experts typically consider fall the prime time to upgrade a roof for a variety of reasons.

• **MODERATE TEMPERATURES:** Fall weather tends to be comfortable in many regions of the country. Magnolia Home Remodeling Group says fall temperatures are better suited for roofing and allow materials to work the best. When temperatures are too hot, shingles can become soft and prone to scuffing, while cold temperatures can make materials brittle and difficult to seal.

• **COMFORT FOR WORKERS:** The same moderate conditions can make it easier for roofing contractors to get the work done. It can be extremely hot on a roof during summer, necessitating frequent breaks for workers. Winter weather conditions are not ideal for working on a roof, with snow and ice making things slippery. Fall weather can help workers feel more comfortable.

• **AVOID THE RUSH:** Earl W. Johnston Roofing, LLC says spring and early summer are peak seasons for roofing contractors due to post-winter repairs. Homeowners may experience shorter wait times, better pricing and flexible scheduling if they opt for a fall roof replacement.

• **PREPARE FOR WINTER:** Getting a roof in the fall means having a new and functional barrier against winter storms that can be hard on old roofs. It also means the roof will be ready for rainy, spring weather.

Fall is an ideal time to replace a roof for many reasons. Homeowners can use the summer to vet various roofing contractors and come up with a package that fits their schedules and budgets.

Where would we be without trees?

Trees are important elements of our ecosystem as they create large quantities of carbohydrates and oxygen. They are also essential in providing shelter and food for birds, animals and insects.

Fall is one of the best times for planting trees, shrubs and perennials for several reasons. The combination of cool air temperatures and warm soil creates the ideal environment for vigorous root establishment before winter dormancy. Soil holds onto summer warmth long after the air turns cool which allows roots to continue growing until soil temperature drops below 50° F (10° C).

There is reduced transplant shock as milder air temperatures and weaker sun prevents rapid moisture evaporation through leaves. Also, natural seasonal watering from autumn rains are important for the plants and less work watering for the homeowners.

Destructive garden pests/insects are less active as they are themselves settling into dormancy, so less stress from them as well as reduced weed competition to contend with.

Your plants are getting an advanced head start for Spring. The plants will already be established, ready to channel energy into leafing out and blooming.

Another benefit is the more comfortable environment for us, the homeowners. Being outside, planting on those glorious fall days is good for us both mentally and physically. Another excellent reason for fall planting is there are often fall sale on many of the plants so savings for you that you are unlikely to see in the Spring.

Now onto the acutal planting, whether they are trees, shrubs or perennials, you should dig a hole a few inches wider than the plant but a little shallower as plants are better slightly higher by an inch or two than ground level. Mix the native soil with compost enriched soil to help roots grow strong before winter. Water slowly and deeply to settle the soil and continue watering until the ground freezes completely. Rainfall is generally more plentiful so this helps as well.

After planting, use a liquid transplanter fertilizer ideally with rooting hormones as liquid is more readily available to the plant. For trees generally they should be staked on both sides to prevent winds from uprooting them. The stakes can be removed after 2 winters.

Have fun and enjoy the rewards of your labour!

Supplied by Valerie Wylie, Glen Echo Nursery.







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THE FIREPLACE STOP

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'Lighting the fires for the first time and seeing the happy faces of customers' fuels Fireplace Stop owner Andy Leonard in his 40th year of service in Schomberg

BY JIM STEWART

The Fireplace Stop owner and operator Andy Leonard has been serving customers from his Schomberg store since 1987 and bought out a competitor in Parry Sound in 2025 to consolidate a second location.

The amiable and engaging fireplace expert explained the satisfaction he derives from looking after his customers in the store's farflung locations.

"To put a smile on a customer's face is a real achievement. You deal with all kinds of personalities in any business, but we're confident in our range of products — that they'll look after all the different tastes of our customers. We've got the Buicks, the Porsches, and the Lamborghinis in our showroom. It's also really about the people — my staff — that make Fireplace Stop what it is. We're pleased to have twenty home-grown employees who look after our customers with installations and service our range of products properly. Specs change constantly in this business so we're happy to be connected to a Georgian College co-op program. We're able to bring in cutting edge, talented technicians in the fall and train them during their co-op placements," said Leonard.

Responding to an ever-evolving economy is a requirement for any successful business and Leonard acknowledged this decade's unique challenges.

"The only constant in the twenty-first century is change and we are living it. It's changing all the time. The models we sell have changed so much even in five years. Each piece of equipment has its own bible and keeping up with the changes keeps us energized. New product lines can change every six months so we keep pace with new specs and installation methods. Staying current is what creates our relationship with our clients — meeting their needs gives us so much satisfaction. We like these challenges — we built this company on that level of service that responds to change," said Leonard.

Those myriad services are manifested in the company's recent radio ad which is in regular rotation on local radio stations around Central Ontario. The thirty-second spot outlines home and cottage products offered at both Schomberg and Parry Sound locations, including fireplaces, fireplace inserts, freestanding stoves, outdoor living, and venting components. The company's impressive range of brands is referenced in the radio commercial and reinforced with a visit to its expansive showroom at the Crossroads Mall at Highways 9 and 27: DaVinci Custom Fireplaces; Enviro Fireplaces; Fireplace Xtrordinair; Jotul North America; Lopi Stoves; Marquis Fireplaces; Pacific Energy; Regency Fireplace Products; Renaissance Fireplaces; RSF Fireplaces; Spartherm Fireplaces; Stuv America; Tempest Touch; and Town and Country Fireplaces. The congenial owner of The Fireplace Stop was pleased with the lively, invitational, and engaging voiceover that moves the ad and deepens the connectivity of his brand with homeowners and cottage owners across multiple regions.

In addition to connecting with prospective customers via radio waves and the company's navigable, interactive website, the diligent and dedicated owner is deeply connected to his community through sponsorships.

"We purchased the #1 sponsorship at a MacTier/Parry Sound Charity Walk on behalf of the Lion's Club that will raise funds for Diabetes Canada on Oct. 3. We've sponsored a number of local hockey teams and individual hockey players, but the players have to come in and visit with us before any sponsorship funds are dispersed. Our company raised money for cancer research through golf tournaments for many years, but we found that that kind of fundraising got old due to so many tournaments having the same goals. Most importantly, when we have the chance to give back, we do," said Leonard.

Leonard acknowledges at the end of a busy Friday afternoon that their customers also give back to them in meaningful ways, it's a two-way street of customer service.

"It's very rewarding to help and direct our customers. They make us feel so great when we help them achieve what they set to accomplish. We build our relationships with people and enjoy showing interest in their plans and, by extension, the things they do in their own lives. We learn so much in our conversations at various stages of our installations," he said.

Leonard concurs along with his staff: "We're so blessed to have so many great customers and to be able to do something that we enjoy doing each and every day. It's great to see when our clients are so ecstatic that the fi replace has become the focal point of the room. Lighting the fires for the first time and seeing the happy faces is an amazing experience for both of us. We're making them more comfortable and they're so happy with the installation."

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CALEDON FIREPLACE



Over 35 years of **Canadian warmth** and unmatched customer service

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Caledon Fireplace has been warming families' homes and hearts for over 35 years, with an extensive selection of fireplaces, inserts, and stoves. Under new ownership for the last 5 years, we continue to provide quality products with quality customer service.

Whether it's wood, gas, or electric, this friends-and-family-owned specialty fireplace store has you covered, with a cozy showroom to browse at 2999 King St., Inglewood.

"Buying a unit — whether it's wood, gas or electric — isn't cheap, so people really like to come in and see it in person. We have a lot of options in the showroom to help them choose what works best," said Lynn Macdonald from Caledon Fireplace. "In the summer, we set up several barbecue models so customers can lift the lid, see the grill and compare them. We also carry an array of accessories to compliment your grill."

Pellets for pellet stoves are also available, offering a cost-effective, efficient, and clean fuel source. Caledon Fireplace carries all-Canadian PitMaster Pellets, from Grand Valley, Ont.

Macdonald said their business has a strong focus on Canadian suppliers and recently added a lineup of products from Valor Fireplaces, based in British Columbia.

Other Canadian brands available at the store are Regency, Blaze King, Kingsman, Supreme, Montigo, Continental, RSF, Pacific Energy, Amantii, and Valcourt.

Caledon Fireplace has WETT-certified installers and experienced staff who ensure customers' expectations are met with every purchase.

"What sets us apart is our customer service. We really try to go over and above," Macdonald said. "If there is a challenging install, we'll go back until the customer is happy."

The small but dedicated team at Caledon Fireplace is knowledgeable, and clients will often speak to the same person from start to finish, providing a consistent point of contact. If they don't know the answer to your questions, they are happy to contact tech support for the product and supply you with all the answers you need.

"We've had customers come in here who bought units somewhere else and then couldn't get anyone to answer the phone," Macdonald recalled. "They won't have that problem here. Customers are usually dealing with me or Heather, and we try to follow each order right from beginning to end. It's less confusing and better for the customer to have one person handling their order," said Kim McKenzie from Caledon Fireplace.

The friendly team at Caledon Fireplace is happy to help narrow down or determine the unit that best suits their needs.

"Customers often ask for quotes on several options — gas, wood, inserts or freestanding stoves — and we'll give them as many quotes as they want to help them figure out what works best," said Macdonald.

Caledon Fireplace supports the Dufferin–Caledon community where it can, recently donating silent auction items to local fire services, contributing to the annual Coldest Night of the Year Walk, as well as to Cheltenham Day, which raises funds for the community. They also often donated to Bethell House Hospice and, in the past, have sponsored minor hockey teams in the BYHA & Canadettes.

The showroom is open Monday to Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2999 King St., Inglewood – a short drive from Orangeville.

To learn more about Caledon Fireplace, contact the company by phone at 905-838-1114, visit their website at caledonfireplace.ca, or email caledonfireplace@rogers.com, and they will be more than happy to help you out.





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ALLEN HVAC SOLUTIONS is a family-owned and operated HVAC company led by Garfield Allen and his children Maddison and Keegan. Their mission is to deliver a thorough, consistent, and trustworthy service experience to homeowners and businesses.

They offer a full suite of heating, cooling, and ventilation services, from regular maintenance to emergency repairs and full installations. They emphasize individualized service: rather than promoting one-size-fits-all solutions, Allen HVAC works with customers to assess their specific heating and cooling needs and present tailored options.

A key focus of their offering is indoor air quality (IAQ). They note that HVAC systems in homes move over a million cubic feet of air daily, making them prime places to address air purity. They provide products such as:

- Whole-house humidifiers to help with respiratory comfort, dry skin, allergies, and snoring
- An IAQ 1000 Polarized Media Air Cleaner capable of removing particles as small as 0.3 microns, helping allergy and COPD sufferers and improving system efficiency and comes with a lifetime warranty.
- An IAQ 3000 dual-wavelength ultraviolet purification system (using UVC and UVV) to control viruses, bacteria, mold, chemicals, odors, and off-gassing, and comes with a lifetime warranty.

Allen HVAC services both residential and commercial clients. They combine high-quality parts and equipment with a commitment to workmanship, backing their installations and repairs with warranties.

In short, Allen HVAC Solutions positions itself not just as a repair or installation company, but a partner in home comfort and air quality. By taking time to understand each customer's needs, offering advanced IAQ solutions, and guaranteeing their work, they aim to build long-term trust in the communities they serve.



HOW HOMEOWNERS CAN TURN ATTICS INTO LIVABLE SPACES

HOUSES TYPICALLY FEATURE various areas that are traditionally designed for storage, such as garages, basements and attics. However, with some renovation, these spaces can be transformed into livable areas.

Homeowners who would like to convert attics into livable spaces need to take certain things into consideration before starting an improvement project. While the attic may seem like it has plenty of room and is structurally sound enough to walk in, that's not necessarily so. To be converted into usable living space, an attic must be brought up to the standards of modern building codes, according to the design experts at Board & Vellum. Retrofitting beams and insulation can eat up available space in an attic. Thus, it is best to consult an expert to see if an attic can be converted.

Furthermore, an attic that was not initially designed as a room when the house was built can add extra "load" upstairs if it is converted. That could present certain structural problems. That means a structural engineer also must be consulted to see if adding beams, flooring and drywall will necessitate other changes elsewhere in the home to accommodate the extra load.

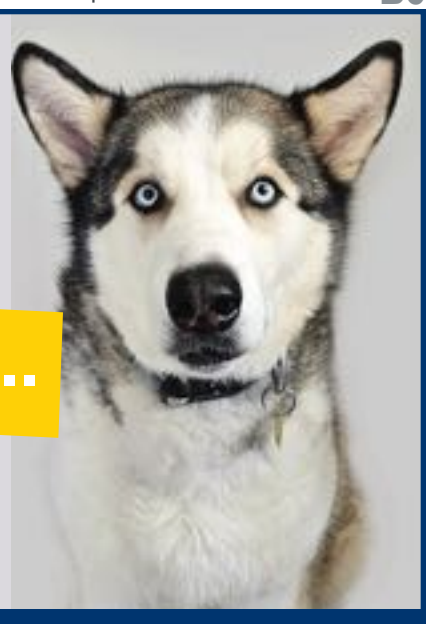
In order to have a functional attic room, building codes will dictate that it needs to be accessible by a full-size staircase. Also, it will need to have another exit in case of an emergency so that will likely be an accessible window, according to the home information site The Fill. Homeowners' budgets and renovation plans will need to factor into these considerations. Homeowners also are advised to check local permits to determine what else may be required to go forward. It is best to follow the rules. Lack of a permit for work can affect the ability to sell a home down the line.

Individuals also should plan for heating and cooling upgrades as the home will need to have ductwork installed in the attic, or at the least, a stand-alone heating and cooling unit. As heat rises, it can get quite warm in an attic, so ventilation and comfort should be considered. The attic will need to be wired for electricity for lighting and other needs. Air sealing and additional insulation can the attic space more comfortable as well. Consult with a qualified electrician and an HVAC technician and have an energy audit done to discuss needs.

Attic renovations can give homeowners more space in their homes, which can be used as offices, bedrooms or cozy corners. This is no small undertaking and all of the right steps need to be followed to ensure a legal, safe and successful renovation.



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Why Customers Choose The Flooring Mart Inc.

Choosing the right renovation company is an important decision for any homeowner.

While many companies compete primarily on pricing, at The Flooring Mart Inc. we believe that professionalism, workmanship, transparency, and customer experience are what truly define a successful project.

Based in Bolton, Ontario, The Flooring Mart Inc. has built a strong reputation by consistently delivering high-quality flooring and renovation services to homeowners across the GTA. From engineered hardwood, vinyl, laminate, and tile installations to staircase refinishing, kitchens, bathrooms, painting, and complete interior renovations, our focus has always been on providing reliable service and long-lasting results.

What distinguishes our company is the level of care and attention we bring to every project. We understand that renovations are a significant investment, which is why we take the time to properly guide our customers through the process. Product selection is not simply about appearance; factors such as durability, subfloor preparation, moisture resistance, veneer thickness, installation methods, and long-term performance all play an important role in the overall success of the renovation. We ensure that our customers are informed and confident in the decisions they make for their homes.

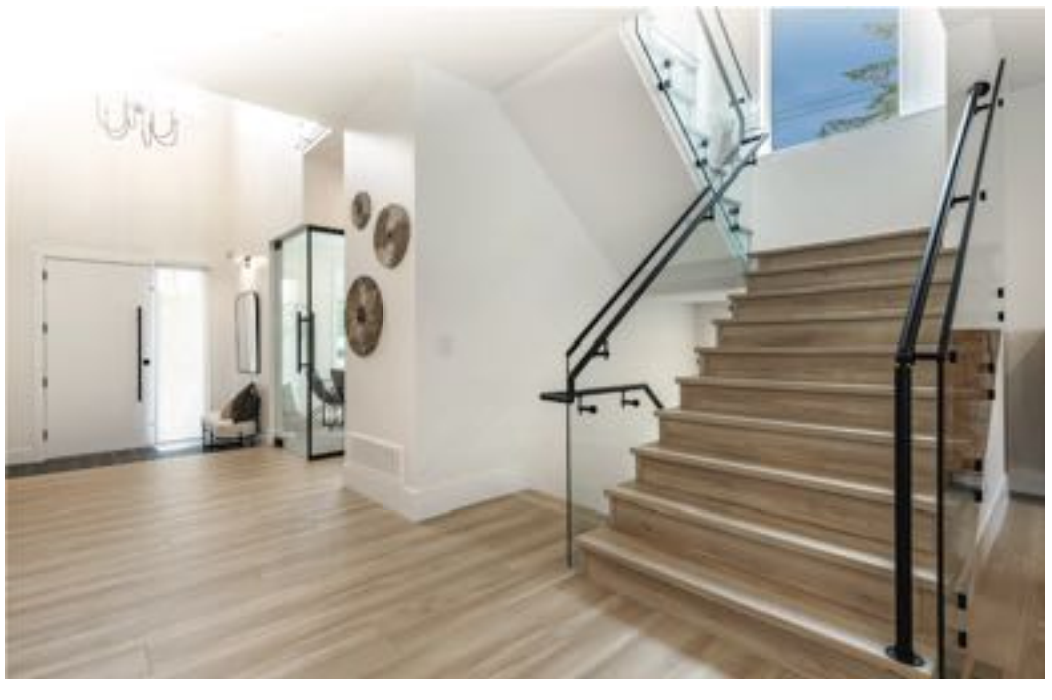
Communication and project coordination are also key elements of our approach. Renovation projects often involve multiple stages and trades, and maintaining clear communication throughout the process helps create a smoother experience for everyone involved. From the initial consultation and quotation stage through to project completion, we aim to keep our customers informed, organized, and comfortable throughout the renovation journey.

At The Flooring Mart Inc., we also place a strong emphasis on workmanship and finishing details. Proper floor preparation, accurate installation techniques, staircase finishing, trim work, and clean transitions are all essential to achieving a professional result. We believe that quality craftsmanship is what ultimately determines the appearance, durability, and value of the finished project.

Another advantage for homeowners is our ability to provide multiple renovation services under one roof. Rather than coordinating with several different contractors, customers can work with one experienced team for flooring, stairs, kitchens, bathrooms, painting, and related interior work. This helps simplify the renovation process while maintaining consistency throughout the project.

Most importantly, we believe in conducting business with honesty and professionalism. Our goal has never been simply to offer the lowest price in the market, but rather to provide fair pricing supported by quality materials, experienced workmanship, and dependable service. Over the years, much of our growth has come through referrals and repeat customers, which reflects the trust our clients place in our company.

At The Flooring Mart Inc., every project is approached with the understanding that we are working inside someone's home, and that responsibility is something we value deeply.



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SPORTS





The Wolfpack shut out the Suzuki Grizzlies 20 – 0 on Thursday in Caledon East to improve their first-place ROPSSAA record to 3 – 0. PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

Wolfpack wallops Grizzlies 20-0 in ROPSSAA Tier 1 Senior Football championship rematch

BY JIM STEWART

Wolfpack quarterback Joseph Ferlito rushed for two touchdowns and veteran teammate Owen Kenny electrified the crowd with a 50-yard punt return TD to catalyze a 20-0 victory over the Suzuki Grizzlies last Thursday morning at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School.

It was Hall's second consecutive regular season victory to continue their defense of multiple football championships won last Fall, including the school's first ROPSSAA Tier 1 Senior title.

The three phases of the Wolfpack gridiron squad displayed varying levels of efficacy versus the Grizzlies on a drizzly, grey early-Fall morning.

The Hall Defensive team was stellar throughout the contest—containing Suzuki's talented quarterback Damian Neptune who also serves as the team's punter and one of its linebackers.

The swarming Wolfpack defenders kept Neptune in check. Their consistently strong play provided the Hall Offensive team with excellent field position, especially on three key third downs during which Neptune and his penned-in partners could not convert.

The Wolfpack offense was opportunistic and used a steady ground game, featuring timely gains by running backs Joshua Arnold and Avery Benn, and an aerial attack spearheaded by Ferlito, to create long, time-consuming drives. However, many of the drives stalled short of the end zone.

Although the offense faltered at times, the Special Teams put the green and gold icing on Hall's victory cake with two significant, game-changing plays.

With less than four minutes until halftime, Kenny broke a scoreless tie by returning a punt over fifty yards for a touchdown. The crafty veteran returner broke tackles at midfield, scampered down the sideline, induced two Grizzly defenders into believing he was stepping out of bounds, pivoted around their overzealous coverage, and found a narrow pathway to the end zone pylon to electrify hundreds of spectators.

Hall's co-captain described the key moment: "Usually my plan is to cut off the field, but this time I faked that I was going out of bounds, I saw the angle I could take, and two of the tacklers I had to beat over-pursued me so I stepped in the bucket around them, and I was able to get to the corner."

After Kenny scampered into the end zone for the much-needed major, Eric Rizzardo converted the touchdown and Hall led 7-0.

Ninety seconds after Kenny's electrifying run, the Wolfpack special teams squad struck again when Liam Shaw blocked a Suzuki punt that gave the Hall offense the ball on the visitors' three-yard line.

Ferlito bashed his way into the end zone on a quarterback sneak through the left side of the offensive line to make it 13-0 with less than three minutes to play in the second quarter.

Kenny, who also serves as a wide receiver on the Wolfpack offense, praised the Offensive Line's performance: "I think we did a good job on offense. The O-Line had a great game—they established our running game, but we're never satisfied and we'll look to get better for next game."

Alas, Rizzardo missed the point after and Hall took a thirteen-point lead into half-time.

With 3:52 left in the third quarter, Neptune surrendered the ball on downs deep in his own end due to the relentless pass rush of the Wolfpack D which caused an incomplete pass. After four rushes by Arnold and Benn to wear down the Grizzlies' defense, Ferlito—seconds after inducing a roughing the passer call—called his own number, slashed his way diagonally through the Suzuki defensive backfield, and found a seam to the left end zone pylon for his second touchdown of the game.

Rizzardo's conversion attempt was kicked through the uprights to give Hall a commanding 20-0 lead heading into the final quarter of play.

When Neptune got the Suzuki offense into its first consistent drive of the game with a minute left to play in the third quarter, Shaw pinned his ears back, barreled through the Grizzlies' offensive line, and sacked the visiting quarterback with much ferocity—evoking a collective howl from the Wolfpack sideline.

The Grizzlies turned the ball over on the unconverted third down and the Green and Gold Wall held again.

On the subsequent play from scrimmage, Ferlito fired a pass to Kenny in the flat and the elusive three-way player was tackled on the two-yard line as time expired in the third quarter.

Although the Wolfpack offense sputtered in the fourth quarter and took itself out of the red zone by committing three consecutive illegal procedure penalties that culminated in a missed field goal, Hall's defense bent in the final period of play but did not break.

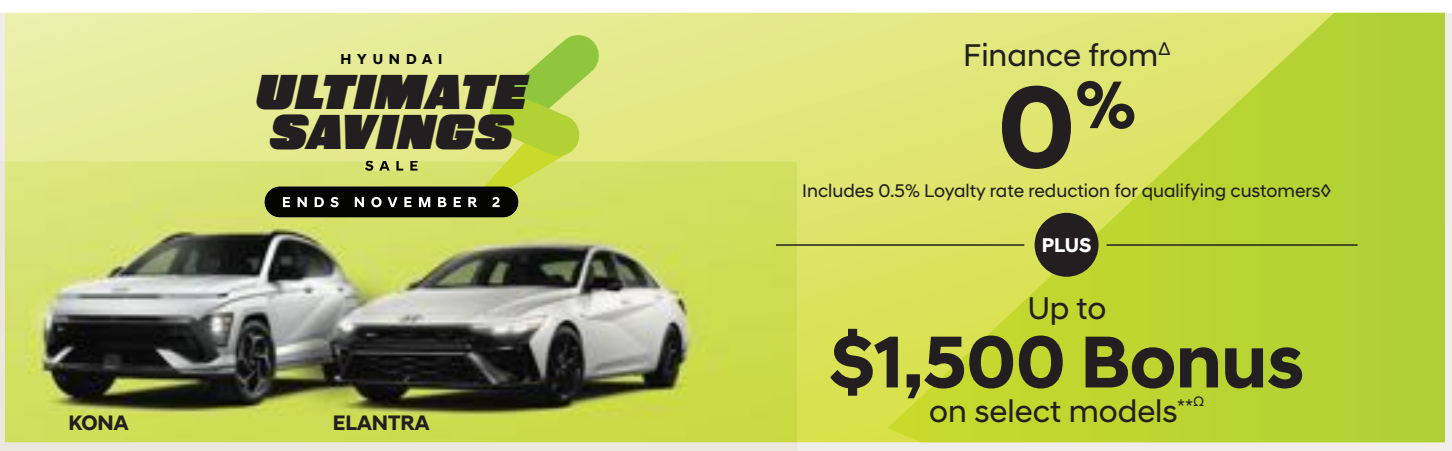
Kenny credited the team's defense as a key contributor to the shutout of Suzuki SS: "We had lots of communication out there today. Everyone made the plays. We followed the calls of our coaches. They call the plays, we trust what they call, and we execute it. We made some good in-game adjustments, and moved our linebackers in to take away the middle of the field."

On the Grizzlies' last drive of the game, Neptune handed the ball to running back Jaleel Reynolds who racked up 38 yards on four consecutive carries, but the Hall defense forced a third down incompletion much to the chagrin of the 15-strong Suzuki Cheer Team who had remained buoyant through the blowout.

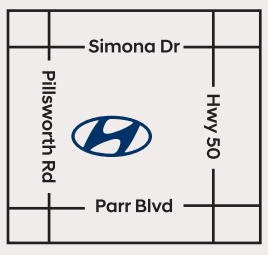
With the resilient cheerleaders performing their closing number at midfield, Kenny reflected on his role as a mentor on a young senior team with so many new players.

"We do have a lot of new players, and we are a younger and smaller team than last year's team, but my job as a Captain to help prepare them for a hard season in varsity football. Many of our new players have come from Junior and have played Summer ball so they're arriving with experience. The most important thing I remind them about is to 'Do your job' and everything will fall into place for us."





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What a way to finish the season! On Sept. 17, Pitch, Please and the Tottenham Tornadoes duked it out in an absolute playoff thriller in the Palgrave Ladies Softball League. The two-loss playoff format meant the pressure was on. Pitch, Please entered the game undefeated in the playoffs, while the Tottenham Tornadoes came in with one loss. After seven innings, Tottenham tied it up, forcing the teams to go into extra innings. When the dust finally settled, Pitch, Please pulled out the nail-biting 13–12 victory. During the regular season, Pitch Please finished first in the standings with an impressive 9–2–1 record, and they finished their season with one final unforgettable playoff win! Congratulations to both team on an incredible game!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ontario advancing Highway 400 widening in King Township

The Ontario government has awarded a detail design contract to advance the widening of Highway 400 from six to 10 lanes between Highway 9 and the future Bradford Bypass (Highway 425). The project marks another milestone in the province's plan to reduce gridlock, improve road safety and keep people and goods moving across the Greater Toronto Area.

"Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is building the highway capacity Ontario needs to tackle gridlock and keep our economy moving," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "Advancing the widening of Highway 400 will help get drivers where they're going faster, strengthen a critical trade corridor and keep people and goods moving in the Greater Toronto Area."

The 11-kilometre section of Highway 400 will be widened by adding one general-purpose lane and one high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction. The project will extend Ontario's HOV network by connecting to the existing HOV lanes south of Highway 9. The contract also includes work related to culverts, signage, drainage and storm sewers, lighting and interchange ramps along the expanded highway.

Highway 400 is a critical transportation corridor connecting southern and northern Ontario, serving commuters, tourists and businesses while supporting the movement of billions of dollars' worth of goods across Ontario and Canada. The province recently completed the widening of nine kilometres of Highway 400 from Major Mackenzie Drive to King Road. To support the future widening of Highway 400 in Barrie, the Dunlop Street bridge is currently being replaced.

"We cut the gas tax by 10 cents per litre, at the very time that we completed a 10-lane expansion of highway 400 — saving you time and money. Less than a year ago, Ontario completed the widening of Highway 400 from Major Mackenzie Drive in Vaughan to Highway 9 in King. We are taking the next step forward by expanding Highway 400 north of Highway 9, reducing debilitating gridlock for families in King and Vaughan," noted Stephen Lecce, MPP for King–Vaughan.

AECOM has been awarded the detail design contract to widen Highway 400 from Highway 9 to the future Bradford Bypass.

The province started major construction on the Bradford Bypass (Highway 425) in May 2026.

Ontario is investing $31 billion to build, repair and expand highways, roads and bridges across the province, including Highway 413, the Bradford Bypass and the Garden City Skyway twin bridge.

"For families and commuters across York-Simcoe, Highway 400 is an essential part of getting to work, getting home, and staying connected to communities across the region. Widening this important corridor will reduce commute times, improve traffic flow, and support the continued growth of our communities. I'm pleased to see our government is taking this important next step," said Susan Lahey, MPP for York–Simcoe.

"For Vaughan businesses, congestion on Highway 400 means delayed shipments, higher costs and longer commutes for employees. This announcement is an important step toward strengthening a corridor our manufacturers, distributors and other employers rely on. We welcome the province's investment in the transportation capacity needed to support business growth and keep Ontario competitive," added Abdus Samad, Vice President of Government Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, Vaughan Chamber of Commerce.

"Highway 400 is one of Ontario's most important economic corridors, connecting communities and moving people and goods across the province. With congestion costing Ontario more than $56 billion annually, widening this critical stretch of Highway 400 will help reduce gridlock, improve the movement of goods and support Ontario's continued growth. ORBA welcomes this important step toward construction and looks forward to working with the government to deliver the infrastructure Ontario needs," stated Steven Crombie, Senior Director of Public Affairs, Ontario Road Builders' Association.

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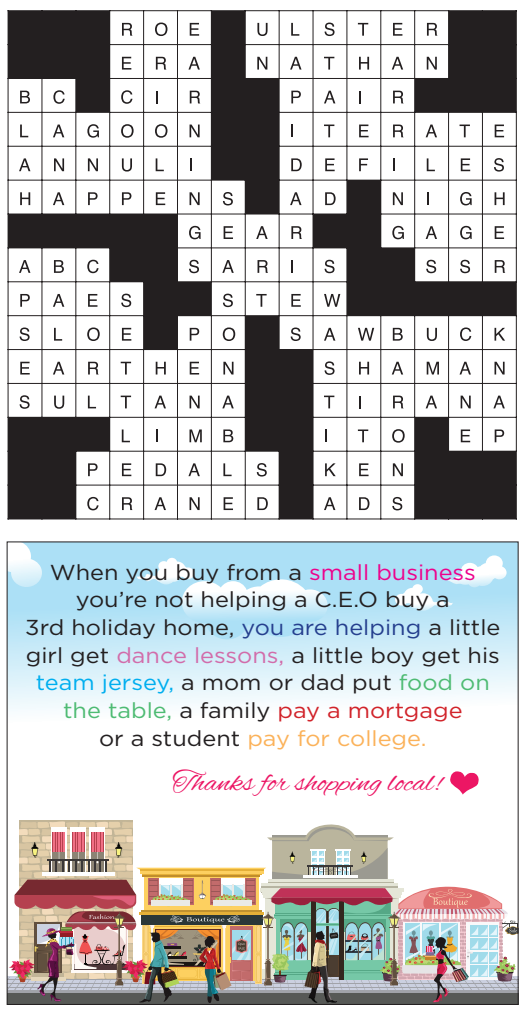
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Meet Your Council Candidates: Doug Maskell, Ward 3

Continued from Page A15

In addition to challenges facing Ward 3, another priority is keeping an eye on the future of Peel Region.

"In May 2023, with no consultation or warning, the Province decreed Peel Region would be dissolved as of January 1, 2025. (Bill 112, Hazel McCallion Act) This was later changed to a 'partial dissolution,' which, amongst other directives, included downloading Regional roads to Caledon," says Maskell. "The annual operating and capital costs of maintaining those Regional roads is $80 to $100 million. Where is that money coming from? The Province? The Region? Caledon taxpayers cannot be expected to shoulder this tax burden, one that would increase property taxes by 73%."

Another priority will be public safety/illegal land use and he says he plans to ask for an increase in by-law staffing and the level of OPP servicing as part of the 2027 Budget deliberations.

"Caledon's continued growth will require additional By-Law and OPP officers," says Maskell. "While Council has increased the number of By-Law officers and equipped the OPP with new radar equipment and truck scales, more needs to be done to combat illegal land use, increase traffic safety and reduce crime. As Mayfield West continues to grow, Caledon will need a new OPP reporting station in that community."

Maskell says he understands that trust is not given; it has to be earned and he wants to able to continue in the role of Ward 3 Councillor, if re-elected, and to do what is right for the residents of both Ward 3 and Caledon.

"Public trust and confidence are earned through engagement, dedication and leadership. Over the past four years, I have consistently demonstrated those qualities while: serving on Council, representing the Town at events and conferences and interacting with residents and other stakeholders", says Maskell. "People know me to be a man of my word, one who will do what is right for the residents of Ward 3 and for the people of Caledon."

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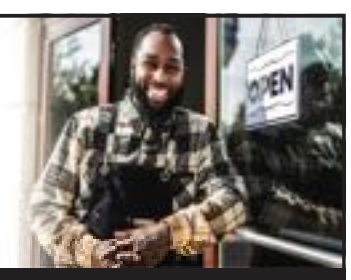
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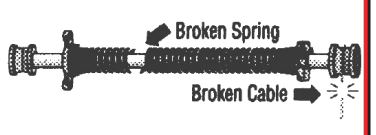
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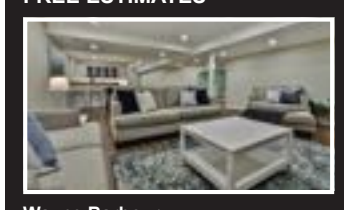
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Apply to be a vendor at the Township's annual One of a King Handmade Holiday Market

Are you a local artisan, crafter or small business looking to showcase your unique, handmade or one-of-a-kind products?

King Township is now accepting vendor applications for the annual One of a King Handmade Holiday Market, taking place Saturday, Nov. 21 and Sunday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the King Township Municipal Centre.

From handcrafted treasures and unique artwork to seasonal décor, clothing, and specialty food and beverage, the Township is looking for vendors with products that make the holidays memorable. Share your creations with enthusiastic holiday shoppers, expand your reach, and connect with other local makers and small businesses at this beloved two-day tradition.

This is an indoor event and space is limited. Six-foot vendor spaces are available for $100, while twelve-foot spaces can be purchased for $175. Six-foot table rentals are available for $15 each, individual chair rentals are available for $5, and access to hydro can be purchased for $10. Vendors are responsible for bringing their own tablecloths and any props needed for their display.

To be considered, complete the vendor application form online by Friday, Nov. 6.

All fees are subject to HST and must be paid to the Township by November 6. Acceptable payment methods include cheque or credit card. The cost covers vendor participation for the entire two-day period; the option to opt out of one day and pay a reduced fee is not available.

Vendors selling food are also required to complete a York Region Public Health vendor application form. Set-up begins at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, with the market opening at 10 a.m.

The 2025 One of King Handmade Holiday Market featured more than 45 vendors selling a range of handcrafted items, from farm-fresh honey and baked goods to soaps, candles, and quilts and attracted over 500 shoppers across the two-day event.For more information, including event details and vendor application forms, visit king.ca/OneOfAKing.

To advertise, call Caledon at (905) 857-6626 or Orangeville at (519) 941-2230

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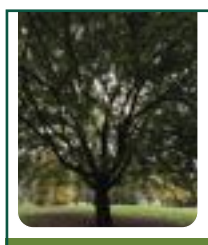


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