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Product of Morocco
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Cameron stands in front of one of the 16 public schools in Caledon that he served.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

“They took away our communication devices, but they can’t take away our voice” Cameron speaks out against sidelined trustee roles

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

For the past 15 years, Stan Cameron has been the Peel District School Board (PDSB) trustee for Caledon.

On March 5, he was officially sidelined from that role, as were many other trustees.

The Minister of Education, Paul Calandra, appointed supervisors at both the PDSB and York Catholic District School Board.

It was stated that this was due to “serious concerns about infighting and long-term financial unsustainability that risk disrupting

learning and undermining student outcomes.”

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

This change follows an initial announcement from Calandra in January, in which he placed the PDSB under provincial supervision on a provisional basis.

It was stated that he would give the board 14 days to respond to the Minister’s con-

cerns, after which the Minister would determine whether to continue with supervision.

“14 days became almost a month before he eventually put us under supervision that was not titled provisional,” says Cameron. “When it got past three weeks whatever was happening behind the scenes was clearly not going to likely be in our favour.”

Calandra had stated the provincial supervision was due to a planned “disruptive mid-year upheaval in staffing” and that the “Board has also run a deficit for five consecutive years.”

Continued on Page A7

Sweet Celebration with CVC’s Maple Syrup fest

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Running from March 19 – 22, and March 28 – 29, is Credit Valley Conservation’s (CVC) annual Maple Syrup in the Park Festival.

This sweet event invites the community to partake and experience the longstanding tradition of maple syrup production.

At the festival, held at Terra Cotta Conservation Area, families can enjoy live demonstrations, activities, wagon rides, and get an up-close view of their sugar bush.



CVC Crew Member Riley MacArthur.

PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Continued on Page A12



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Community comes together to celebrate Retired Captain Kevin Junor



Kevin Junor joined by his family, friends, Caledon Councillors, Bishop Ronald and Pastor Claudette Kelly, and more. **PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY**

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

“Give Me My Flowers While I Yet Live” rang true this weekend as dozens of community members, friends, and family came together to celebrate and honour Kevin Junor at North Peel Community Church in Caledon.

Junor is not only a community champion in Caledon in numerous ways, but also in all the communities he is part of and represents.

Born in Birmingham, England, Junor moved to Jamaica to join his grandparents and other family members.

When he was 10, he joined his mother in Toronto.

Now, decades later, Junor and his family have been Caledon residents for over 20 years.

But before that, in 1980, Junor joined the Canadian Forces Reserves as an infantry soldier in the Toronto Scottish Regiment.

He was a chief warrant officer in 1998 and was then appointed to the position of Regimental Sgt. Major.

He retired from the military in 2023.

Junor was the first Black Regimental Sgt. Major with the Toronto Scottish Regiment, and a Captain in Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada.

He was appointed to the Order of Ontario in 2024.

He also works with the Jamaica Diaspora Crime Intervention and Prevention Task Force.

Junor is also credited with being instrumental in the recognition of the work of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

He served as a member of the committee that advised the federal government on crafting an apology to the descendants and relatives of the Black soldiers.

With all these accolades, Junor can also now and then be seen clearing snow from the North Peel Community Church parking lot.

After moving to Caledon, Junor and

his family joined North Peel Community Church, where he is currently a District Elder.

The same community that came to celebrate him this past weekend,

At the special Sunday Service, Andrea Kelly-Brown joked that Junor must have more than 24 hours in a day to do all that he does.

She says not only does he serve at North Peel Community Church, but he also delegates to local governments, works with non-profits, and mentors individuals through G.E.T. Outreach Works.

During the service, there were numerous tributes to Junor from family, friends, and other members of North Peel Community Church, as well as members from Caledon Council, in attendance were Councillors Cosimo Napoli, Christina Early, Mario Russo, and Dave Sheen.

“What Kevin does in our community demonstrates what we all should strive to do, is to actually be a good brother, sister, father, neighbor, and all of the above, and

that’s what he does on a daily basis,” said Russo. “We really welcome and thank you for all that you do in our community, in Caledon. As you said, not just in Caledon, in Ontario, in Canada, and more importantly, on Earth.”

Early added Junor has been instrumental in Caledon, including his push for Black History Month.

“We are so fortunate in the Town of Caledon to have Kevin, who represents so well,” she says.

Tributes also came forward from individuals, including his niece.

“You’ve made this world better in your own way. Not just for those that you touch, those that you’re connected to,” she says. “Even for me.”

Alethia O’Hara-Stephenson is both the president and founder of the Dufferin County Canadian Black Association, and also an Upper Grand District School Board trustee and Vice-Chair. She spoke on Junor’s accomplishments since they met six years ago.

She reflected on meeting him at the Museum of Dufferin, when they were, at the time, embarking on an initiative to launch Black History Month, Junor was there with G.E.T. Outreach Works.

“That was the beginning of a steadfast relationship with him,” said O’Hara-Stephenson. “That moment led to mentorship sessions, collaborations between Dufferin County Canadian Black Association, and the broader community, collaboration with G.E.T. Outreach Works.”

“Captain Junor, you are an incredible trailblazer to our community, a legacy builder, and I’m so honored to be able to stand here in the presence with your family and your congregation to celebrate you and honor you.”

Pastor Claudette Kelly added that she’s been able to watch Junor grow into who he is today, adding that he has done so much.

“Very seldom am I speechless,” said Junor, looking at the congregation, his friends, and family gathered around him that day.

“You speak of a number of hours in the day. It’s individuals like my wife and daughter and granddaughter and my son, they’re the ones that give up the most hours, so that I can do some of the things that I do,” he added.

Junor says he can do what he does because “I’m blessed to be a blessing.”

He thought back to his mother, who has passed, and referenced the quote, “If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my merits shall not be in vain.”

“That’s what drives me as I continue to serve.”

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Caledon OPP to host Crime Awareness presentation for Seniors



BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

With fraud schemes on the rise, members of the Caledon OPP will hold a drop-in presentation for seniors in the community on March 28 regarding crime awareness and information on how to avoid falling victim to fraud schemes.

Jesse Nobleman with Caledon OPP says that, with March 2026 being National Fraud Prevention Month, they thought it would be a great idea to educate local residents on how to stay safe.

“Seniors are most often victimized by instances of fraud, so we felt as though targeting our presentation toward their age demographic would yield the most beneficial results,” says Nobleman.

At the presentation, they will cover some of the most common frauds they see affecting the senior population. Some of these include emergency schemes, phishing, and service fraud, and they will discuss how they work, what to look out for, and how to report them.

Emergency schemes, he explains, involve fraudsters posing as a loved one and using time-sensitive, emotional tactics to

get money from their victims.

Phishing includes fraudsters sending a text message or email to their victim posing as a legitimate entity, such as a company claiming a bill is owed, then providing a link to click on and pay what is “owed.”

When it comes to service frauds, fraudsters will call, email, or go door-to-door to sell a product or offer a service at a discounted rate.

A contract is sometimes provided, where in the fine print, it will indicate more is owed than verbally discussed, or they’ll purchase a product that won’t ever show up.

Nobleman says regardless of whether you have been victimized by a fraud scheme or caught the fraud before any loss, they encourage reporting the incident.

Steps include gathering any information you can, such as the phone number that called, the nature of the fraud, and any names or contact details they provided.

Also recommended is blocking the phone number or email address.

If the incident occurred online, you can report it through the website’s built-in reporting feature. Then, report the incident to your local police service, followed by

the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

They also suggest that if you gave away any personal details or information about your financial institution, you should call your bank to report the incident and consider notifying credit bureaus to monitor for suspicious activity.

Nobleman says they’ll be covering fraud statistics, common types of fraud, how to report fraud, and prevention tips.

Some of these tips include doing research to verify a claim, slowing down and not succumbing to an urgent emotional plea, and saying no to something that doesn’t make sense or sounds unreasonable.

“Most importantly, keeping your personal information private!” he says.

The presentation will be held at the Humber River Centre on Saturday, March 28 at 10am.

It is a drop-in event with approximately 40 seats available.

Nobleman says that if a caregiver or family member wishes to attend on behalf of their loved one, they’re welcome to attend, however there is a limited seating capacity.

“For those who cannot attend but are a leader of a community group or representative of a retirement community, they are welcome to reach out to the Caledon OPP for arranging to hear this presentation at their group/location,” says Nobleman.

PUBLIC NOTICE

12879 The Gore Road

Notice of Application and Public Meeting Proposed Official Plan Amendment

FILE NUMBER: POPA 2026-0002

This is to inform you that the Town of Caledon has received an application for an Official Plan Amendment. A statutory Public Meeting will be held to provide those interested an opportunity to make representation with respect to the proposed Official Plan Amendment. Your input and insight will inform and shape plans that meet the needs of our community.

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

Meeting Date: April 21, 2026
Public Meeting Start Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East

How to Participate:

- Attend In-Person: Register to delegate in-person and speak to an item listed on the agenda or watch the meeting from the gallery.
- Submit Written Comments: Provide written comments regarding the proposed application by completing the Participation Request Form, available at: <http://www.caledon.ca/speak-at-council>
- Virtually: Participate via phone or Zoom upon request. For more information, please contact Agenda@caledon.ca. Please note that there are deadlines to participate in the public meeting virtually.

You can also provide input by:

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

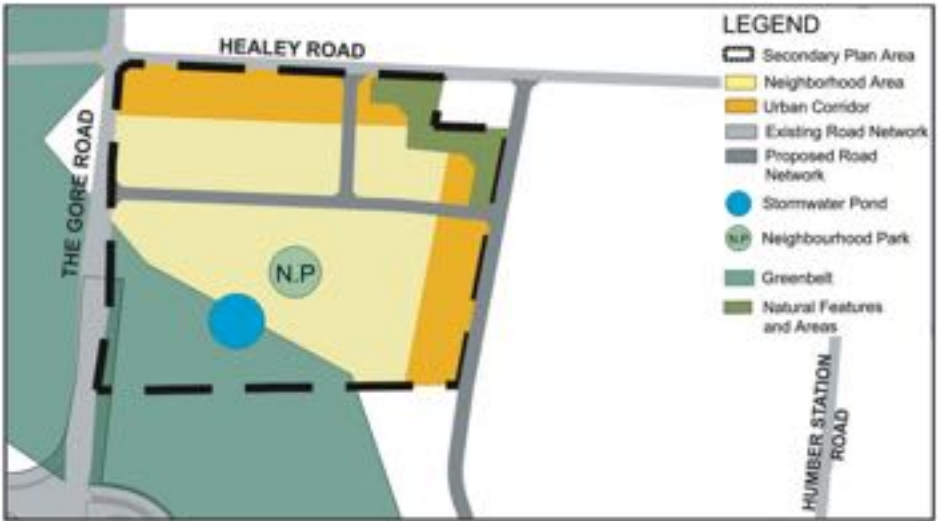
APPLICANT:
SGL Planning & Design Inc. on behalf of Alcan Holdings Inc.

LOCATION:
12879 The Gore Road, Concession 4, Part Lot 5 on RP 43R32403

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The applicant has submitted an Official Plan Amendment application (File: POPA 2026-0002) to create the Healey Gore Secondary Plan. The proposed Healey Gore Secondary Plan Area has an area of approximately 40 hectares (98.8 acres) and redesignates the lands to *Neighbourhood Area*, *Urban Corridor*, and *Natural Features and Area* designations. A conceptual road network is also shown on the proposed Land Use Plan.

The Secondary Plan is intended to facilitate approximately 835 single-detached, semi-detached and townhouse dwellings, a neighbourhood park and access to open space.



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

LEAD PLANNER:
Sarah Mowder
Senior Planner, Development Planning and Development Department
905-584-2272 ext. 4177
Sarah.Mowder@caledon.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For more information about this matter, including appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Official Plan Amendment 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 on the proposed Official Plan Amendment, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Town of Caledon, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, Ontario L7C 1J6.

ACCESSIBILITY:
If you require an accessibility accommodation to attend or participate in this Public Meeting, or to access any materials related to this item in an alternate format please contact Records and Information Services by

phone at 905-584-2272 x.2366 or via email at accessibility@caledon.ca. Requests should be submitted at least 10 days before the Public Meeting.

Multi-Tenant Landowners: Please post this notice in a visible location to all residents of the land.

Notice Date: March 26, 2026



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KIDNAPPING INVESTIGATION

Members from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a kidnapping which took place in Caledon on Monday afternoon.

“On Monday, March 23, 2026, officers responded to a report of a kidnapping in the area of Maple Trail Road and Dougall Avenue, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “The victim was walking on Maple Trail Road, when they were approached by two suspects who exited a vehicle. The victim was forced into the vehicle, which departed the area eastbound on Dougall Avenue from Maple Trail Road at approximately 3:35 p.m. The victim was located shortly after, suffering from minor injuries as a result.

“Suspect one is described as male, approximately 5’9”, wearing a black mask, hoodie, and pants, and black/white shoes. Suspect two is described as male, wearing a black mask, hoodie, pants, and shoes. The third suspect involved was the vehicle driver, who is described as wearing an orange high-visibility vest. The suspect vehicle is described as a grey Hyundai Santa



Fe sports utility vehicle (SUV).”

At this time, investigators believe this to be an isolated and targeted incident with no outstanding threat to public safety.

This investigation is 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. 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.

HOME INVASION INVESTIGATION

Members from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a home invasion which took place in Caledon early Friday morning.

“On March 20, 2026, at approximately 2:45 a.m., officers responded to a report of a robbery at a residence on Bonnieglenn Farm Boulevard, near Benadir Avenue, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “One

individual inside the home was assaulted and property was taken. No life-threatening injuries were reported.”

Four suspects were observed leaving the area in a dark-coloured sports utility vehicle (SUV).

This investigation is 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. 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.

SHOOTING IN BOLTON

Members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a shooting incident in Bolton.

“On March 18, 2026, at approximately 10:00 p.m., officers responded to a report of a shooting at a residence on Bambi Trail, in the Town of Caledon,” say Police. “No injuries were sustained as a result of the incident. The suspect vehicle, a white Kia sports utility vehicle (SUV), was observed leaving the area.

“The OPP urges the public to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity to the police.”

This investigation remains ongoing and is not believed to be extortion related. At this time, there is no threat to public safety and more information will be released when available.

Anyone with information or surveillance/dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP by phone 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.

FATAL COLLISION

One individual has been pronounced deceased following a head-on collision in East Garafraxa.

“On Thursday, March 19, 2026, at approximately 5:15 a.m., members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to reports of a collision involving two passenger ve-

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hicles on Caledon/East Garafraxa Town-line,” say Police. “The driver of one of the vehicles was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of the second vehicle was transported to hospital with nonlifethreatening injuries.”

Anyone with information or video footage of the incident is asked to contact OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or report anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT IN DUFFERIN

Members of the Dufferin OPP, in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), recently conducted a targeted traffic enforcement initiative focused on commercial motor vehicle compliance and road safety.

“During the initiative, officers conducted a total of 30 inspections, including both Level 1 and Level 2 commercial vehicle inspections. As a result, six vehicles were found to be unsafe and were placed out of service due to significant mechanical or safety-related deficiencies,” say Police. “Officers also issued 14 Provincial Offence Notices for various violations identified throughout the enforcement period.”

In addition, six Approved Screening Device (ASD) tests were administered to drivers, all of which resulted in zero blood alcohol concentration readings.

“The OPP remains committed to ensuring the safety of Ontario’s roadways through proactive enforcement and continued collaboration with its policing partners. This joint initiative with the Ministry of Transportation contributed to increased compliance and enhanced road safety for all road users.

“Members of the Dufferin OPP remain dedicated to public safety through proactive and innovative policing in partnership with the communities they serve.”

If you suspect someone is driving while impaired, call 9-1-1. To report non-emergency information, contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), or submit a tip online at www.crimestoppersdm.com.

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The Citizen

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CLUES ACROSS

1. “Bird of Paradise” constellation
5. Red Sox WS winner
Bronson
11. Whirl
12. The State Dept. has a notable one
16. Energy, style and enthusiasm
17. Part of the mind
18. Mountainous country
19. Type of beverage
24. Atomic #109
25. Opposite of falsities
26. Female sheep
27. Rocky peak
28. Sensitive information sharing environment
29. Ethnic group of Thailand
30. Patron saint of Rome Philip
31. Psychedelics
33. Japanese pine
34. Have an impact on
38. Violent disorder
39. A French river

40. Early Mesoamerican civilization
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. Musician Clapton
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Valley
51. A way to unwind
53. Atomic #93
54. Recommending
56. Indigo bush
58. Larry and Curly’s pal
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
64. Relating to songbirds
65. A way to assign

CLUES DOWN

1. Some are “secret”
2. Intestinal openings
3. Distant planet
4. Assembly

possessing high legislative powers
5. Genus of typical owls
6. One with distinctively colored hair
7. Red cross
8. An alternative
9. Abominable snowmen
10. About ear
13. The opening letters
14. Feeling of regret
15. Atomic #39
20. Luteinizing hormone
21. Atomic #55
22. Carries a debt
23. Albanian monetary unit
27. Semitic abjad letter
29. Yes
30. Negative
31. Earn a perfect score
32. Connecticut
33. Partner to cheese
34. Snack nuts
35. Quadruped’s body part

36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. “___, myself and I”
40. Utah city northwest of Provo
41. Football players in the trenches
42. One who runs the show
44. Wood
45. Performing artists
46. Slang for a cut
47. More breathable
48. Most crafty
50. Provokes into action
51. University of Dayton
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not one
57. ___ and behold
61. Sports highlight show
62. “The Great Lakes State”

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ARTS & CULTURE



(LEFT) Wayne Hudson with “Quiet Waters – Painted Turtles.” (RIGHT) Jorge Nascimento with “Mars Eruptions.” PHOTOS BY RILEY MURPHY

Colour and Light Fills Headwaters Arts Gallery for “Colour Gone Wild”

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The opening reception for Headwaters Arts’ third themed member art show of the year was held this weekend, and brought artists and community members together to embrace colour and light as Spring soon approaches.

The show, “Colour Gone Wild”, features more than 40 artworks in a variety of media and subjects, including acrylic, watercolour, and oil paintings; photography; mixed media; stained glass; paper collage; and textiles.

Each artist was invited to take their own inspiration from the Henri Matisse quote, “Colour helps to express light, not the physical phenomenon, but the only light that really exists, that in the artist’s brain.”

And some artists took inspiration from their own lives.

Caledon resident Wayne Hudson has been part of the Headwaters Gallery for a few years. A landscaper by trade, the win-

ter has given him some much-needed time to work in his studio, he laughs.

His piece submitted to the gallery features ripples of light reflecting numerous colours off the water, and nearby turtles sunning on a branch.

Hudson has a degree in visual arts and mostly practices acrylic on canvas.

When he heard the title of the show, he thought his piece, “Quiet Waters – Painted Turtles,” was well-suited.

“This one was, for me, really an exploration of the colour and the reflections on the water.

I’m fascinated by the water and what I can do with it,” says Hudson.

He explains that, for him, nature and the outdoors are all about taking inspiration and adding to it.

“I’ll use drawings or I’ll use photographs as a jumping off point, but a lot of times it’s in my head and I’ll take off from there,” he adds, noting the variety of colours he added to the reflection in his piece.

Taking inspiration from his landscaping

work, Hudson says it influences much of what he does in his art.

“When I’m working on a garden, that’s kind of my summer canvas, using flowers and perennials in a way that’s artistic. Then that translates over a little bit into my painting as well,” he says.

At the open reception for the show, Hudson said it was a great space, with a great collection of people.

“We all come at it from quite different things. But this show, the theme unites a whole bunch of different people from different spaces. It’s really good to be part of this show and see it hanging here,” said Hudson.

Terra Cotta artist Jorge Nascimento gave “light” a whole new meaning in his painting, using an LED wand at the reception to showcase each intricate detail of his piece.

His work, titled “Mars Eruptions,” was a mixed-media piece made almost entirely of epoxy resin and pigment.

When illuminated, onlookers could see each bit of pigment woven into every aspect of the design.

Nascimento has been experimenting with epoxy resin for over 20 years.

He explained with epoxy resin taking over 45 minutes to cure, he worked on the piece in layers, creating the seen lava and eruptions, some of which were made by injecting alcohol into the resin before it cures to create certain patterns.

“It’s so tough when you’re an artist, when you do something completely different,” said Nascimento.

During COVID, he switched to pursuing his art full-time.

To be there that day, he said he was at a loss for words.

“I love it,” said Nascimento. “I have to thank the gallery for putting on this show. It’s all volunteers, which is extremely nice.”

“Having the exposure is really important,” he added.

No matter the type of media or material, it seems each artist took their own approach to the theme of Headwaters Arts’ third themed members’ art show of the year, with many more works sure to come down the road.

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Ontario 



Stan Cameron speaks out against sidelined trustee roles



Cameron is pictured in front of the Garden vegetable project, an initiative he began and brought to all Caledon public elementary and high schools. PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

Continued from FRONT

Cameron is speaking out against these statements, claiming neither is true.

He says that one of the roles as a trustee is to approve a balanced budget.

“I voted for a balanced budget each year in the 15 previous budgets,” says Cameron.

Cameron says that the Ministry has “manufactured a crisis,” while at the same time “impugning the names and reputations of the trustees of the Board.”

In the January press release, it was stated that Calandra “has halted the Board’s imminent lay-off plan, which would have seen 60 classroom teachers lose their jobs.”

Cameron explains that, for PDSB, they had to balance the budget mid-year due to enrollment projection shortfalls of almost 2,300 students.

No longer having access to that amount of money, teachers who had moved from their classrooms into seconded positions in central board roles were then being sent back to their classrooms.

Long-term occasional (LTO) teachers who had been hired to take classroom places were then sent back to their LTO pool, where they

could pick up short-term daily teaching assignments.

“Those LTOs would be eligible to apply for the daily positions that get posted as people report being sick or absent for whatever reason. In that flow, nobody lost their job,” says Cameron.

Following the takeover on March 9, 159 secondary teachers in Peel received a notice advising them they could be laid off come August.

These notices have also been sent to 172 elementary teachers.

Government officials say the layoff notices are a routine part of planning for the upcoming school year.

“To my knowledge,” says Cameron. “He [Calandra] has not presented a better model of serving our children, their families, the school staff and the school communities. Because in 15 years, I can only guess at the number of thousands of phone calls and meetings I’ve had with parents where I have helped them find a solution to the challenges in their children’s lives.”

Another issue Cameron worries about relates to the upcoming municipal election.

“Everybody wants to know, is there a position to compete for or not?”

Prior to his 15 years as trustee, Cameron

taught as a full-time faculty member for 37 years in post-secondary education. “Serving my community is part of who I am in the education sector,” he says.

Not even knowing if there will be a position to apply for, Cameron adds that it will also depend on what the position entails if it is changed.

“I want to serve my community,” he says.

Cameron has spent 12 years as a volunteer minor hockey coach, 10 plus years as a volunteer Home James driver, four years as a volunteer In-School Mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel, more than 10 years volunteering with the Albion-Bolton Agricultural Society, and currently 13-years-plus a volunteer Resident Support Worker at Bethell Hospice in Inglewood.

Cameron says he fears the power Calandra has with Bill 33, the Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025, which significantly expands provincial authority over education and post-secondary institutions.

Bill 33 is what enables the government to appoint supervisors to school boards.

Cameron worries about what else could be done to school boards with the power this bill grants.

With appointed supervisors reporting to Calandra, Cameron adds that it does not allow for a democratic process.

“They do not report to the children, our students, their families, the community, or our school staff. That’s not democracy,” he says.

Cameron notes past examples the Minister has made of trustees who used taxpayers’ money on trips or hotels.

“Our Board never did that. Nobody on our Board went rogue like that,” he says.

“You can look at my expense account in my 15 years and not once have I ever spent a taxpayer penny on a hotel stay. Not at a convention, not at a conference,” adding that he has never even spent any taxpayer money on a meal.

“This is clearly throwing the baby out with the bath water.”

Cameron says, for him, it’s not about attending conferences; he goes in person to schools to learn about the programs and needs that need to be met within schools in his area.

For 15 years, on a page now removed by the Minister of Education, Cameron had his phone number listed next to his name as a trustee.

Not his cell number, but his personal home phone.

“I used to say to my wife when the phone would ring and I wouldn’t recognize the caller, I would say to her, somebody needs my help,” says Cameron.

He received thousands of calls over the years regarding bussing issues, bullying, and more, and if he couldn’t help solve the issue, Cameron says he would loop in those who could.

More topics Cameron assisted with on a daily basis included French Immersion questions, ESL support, Special Education designation and families’ concerns regarding unmet needs, mental health concerns, issues that arose during a student’s school day, overcrowded classrooms, parent council-related issues, and registration help.

For Cameron, he says much of his role is being a voice for the voiceless.

“As a trustee, I took that as my responsibility to help people maneuver through the second largest school board in the nation,” he adds.

Without the role of a trustee in place, Cameron says he sees the potential for numerous frustrated parents, children, staff, and communities.

“I’m adamant that if you take the trustee position out, let’s hear what your replacement is that will allow families to be well-served and helped when they call for help...when they cry for help.

“They took away our communication devices, but they can’t take away our voice.”



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BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Back to Business Unusual

Everybody needs a little bit of time away. At least that's the view of the band Chicago in their 1982 hit "Hard to Say I'm Sorry."

Everybody does need a little bit of time away – that's not in dispute – but, if you're like me, the hardest part of getting a little bit of time away is anticipating what you might be coming back to.

When we're young, the trepidation of returning to school is tempered somewhat by the idea of being able to catch up with friends you weren't able to over the summer, reconnecting and hearing about what they did.

Things change when you get older and you're in the workplace.

While many are able to fully clock out when their time for a bit of a getaway rolls around, some aren't, for whatever reason, fully able to "turn off" what they're ordinarily tuned into.

I've had a bit of enforced time away recently due to long-awaited hip surgery.

While I've been able to work remotely for the last couple of weeks, the first few days after the surgery at the start of the month was a bit iffy in terms of what I was able to accomplish. I'm thankful for our teams for pitching in during my absence, and I know the papers were in very capable hands, yet there were still those inescapable questions in the back of my mind: What have I missed? What am I coming back to?

I wonder if our politicians ever feel the same way?

The halls of Queen's Park were bustling again at the start of this week as Members of Provincial Parliament returned to the job after more than 100 days away from the Legislature.

Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not begrudging these MPPs time off.

In fact, it's not really time off at all. While the duration of their time away from the halls of government is the subject for another day, and, trust me, people have plenty of opinions about how much time off elected representatives "deserve," the reality is this "time off" is more often than not focused on constituency work – that is, meeting with the people they represent, checking in on worthy organizations within the community, regardless of whether the groups in question have received Provincial or Federal dollars, and, essentially, bringing that important public face to many important elements of our civic life.

During this busy "time away," however, I hope they were able to get some rest and find opportunities to stay in shape because, regardless of what political party they represent, they've had to really hit the ground running.

Premier Ford has left little guesswork as to what the current sitting of the legislature will have to tackle, debate and pass – or not – this legislative season and, from my vantage point, it seems it might be some time before we clear the distractions and get back to substantive business for the people of Ontario.

One announcement ahead of the Legislature resuming that got a deservedly positive reception from members of the public was a series of amendments proposed to make it illegal for concert, sport, and event tickets being resold for more than their official cost. Of course, enforcement will be key to the success of any changes, but it's change for the better and long-overdue.

Another positive step is the proposed creation of a Province-wide Primary Care Medical Record System, which will help make things smoother for just about every player in our beleaguered healthcare system.

Another potential positive, although I'm a bit more skeptical on how effective it will ultimately be, is opening up HOV lanes (High Occupancy Vehicles) on highways during non-peak hours. Those lanes are underused, yes, and opening them up in the off-time could certainly help ease congestion on those applicable highways, but it does nothing to encourage carpooling or support transit, which are essential for tackling the root issues of gridlock. A band-aid like this could help, but band-aids are only temporary.

Then there's the proposal to allow "Bring Your Own" booze to outdoor public events across the Province. Now, this is an issue that caught me off-guard as I haven't once heard this identified as an issue for Ontarians in the most recent or any of the myriad Provincial campaigns I've covered. But, then again, neither was allowing booze sales in gas stations or corner stores.

"Starting this spring, Ontario is giving communities more flexibility to safely and responsibly enjoy cultural and outdoor events," said Ontario Attorney General Doug Downey in a statement. "The 'Bring-Your-Own' event permits will help save attendees more money, lower overhead costs for event organizers, and contribute to local economies."

Sure, it just might do that, and while municipalities will have to pass appropriate by-laws to regulate the consumption of alcohol in public before this is a model that can come to our communities, it could, to my mind, stretch already-resource-strapped municipalities even further – the security issues alone could be eye-watering – but also place towns and cities in the awkward position of declining to move forward with this, and leaving them to deal with the blow-back from residents looking forward to lifting a few of their own cold ones with friends during, say, Canada Day celebrations in the local park.

Then there's the question of the financial hit a move in this direction would cause many of our service clubs who partner with communities to offer beer gardens, for example, at municipal events, a win for municipalities who don't want to take on the responsibility of doing it themselves, a win for the service clubs who make money to invest back into the community, and a win for all those looking to wet their respective whistles.

Then there's the Premier's calls on the Federal government to legalize the use of pepper spray in self-defence, billing it as a "common sense way to help people, especially women in vulnerable situations," and to livestream bail hearings.

I don't know about the rest of you, and while I champion everything women can do to protect themselves in vulnerable situations, the idea of just about everyone having the ability to carry this around on their person, doesn't necessarily fill me with a feeling of safety and security. In the heated environment we find ourselves living in, it's not beyond the realm of possibility that it could be deployed in the most minor of cases, and even to "settle" differences of opinion.

And as for livestreaming bail hearings, we only need to look as far as the frequent judicial circuses that happen south of our border to see that it's not the best idea.

Does bail reform need to take place? Absolutely. Is live-streaming bail hearings the right solution? If only Jay Leno can connect us with the surviving Dancing Itos for their insights.

Everybody needs a little bit of time away, so I hope our elected representatives rested up for what's certainly sounding like a wild ride.

Buckle-up for it, sure, but wait to see what shakes down before hitting the HOV lanes for a solo cruise.



Historic relics themselves do no promote hate

by Mark Pavilons



America. A lot of items, to this day, are still being donated to museums around the world.

Some people are offended by, and condemn, auctions, militaria shops, online stores and other businesses selling Nazi antiques, and find the goods and commercial trading as tasteless and hateful. Maybe, but most collectors are mainly interested in the historical background and are fascinated by the distinctive design of the items.

Collecting Egyptian, Roman, Viking or even medieval artifacts could then be seen in a similar light as these "regimes" were all guilty of mass murder and genocide.

I believe these are mere objects steeped in antiquity. If they are religious, they bring comfort to people. If they are "evil," they serve as a warning. They all have value in terms of academic importance.

While not exactly the same, this line of thinking extends to freedom of speech and expression.

Any "sentinel" of free speech is adamantly opposed to censorship and book burning. We journalists are among the most steadfast in preserving the sanctity of the written word.

The U.S. First Amendment's protection of free speech means that Mein Kampf is legal to publish, sell, and own. The Supreme Court has consistently ruled that even "hate speech" is protected unless it directly incites imminent lawless action.

Here in Canada, public libraries have a similar opinion:

"Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable ... Libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources," says the Canadian Federation of Association Libraries (CFLA, 2019, para. 6).

Unfortunately, book banning has become our new national pastime.

The Centre for Free Expression defines censorship as the, "suppression of words, images, or ideas that are deemed 'harmful' by those attempting to impose their personal, political, religious, or moral values on others," while also noting that it can be carried out not only by governments, but private parties as well.

Does that mean The Holy Bible, Quran and Torah are all next on the chopping block?

In 2023, the Peel District School Board engaged in an "equity-based book weeding process," leading some schools to purge thousands of books. These books were, according to the social justice framework that motivated their removal, potential sources of student "harm." I wonder who sat in judgement of such a thing.

Should we remove all printed material that deals with hate, religion, war, murder, genocide, gender, slavery ...

That's not a true reflection of our world, and our past. You know they say if you don't learn from history, you're damned to repeat it.

I find it difficult to believe that a collection of memorabilia or regalia incites hatred against a group of people. That, my friends, is the evil that lies in the human heart.

We have legislated against blatant public displays of hate.

But we still allow people to gather, protest, debate and discuss what separates us, and brings us together.

Let's make the latter a priority.

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SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



He’s Baaacck....

After a year of hard work (51 days) and a clearly well-earned 14-week break (the sheer audacity) our Premier has seen fit to return to that which he was elected to do by only 43% of voters. In just one day, he has already shown us how little he cares for the people who elected him, the well-being of the province and the democratic process in general, already something for which he has previously shown his true colours. He’s baaacck, and we are all the worse for it.

While Mr. Ford has so little respect for the education system, I would actually like to borrow a tool from it by providing a report card highlighting all that we should be concerned about. After all, rest assured much of what Mr. Ford is doing right now directly impacts, and/or has the potential to impact, all Caledon residents.

Education: Grade “F”

There is the small matter of Ford taking control of his eighth school board, removing duly elected trustees, thereby ensuring whether your children attend Catholic or Public School here in Caledon, you no longer have a voice in their education. Local school trustees like Stan Cameron, who not only advocate regularly for families, but are also instrumental in helping to establish new and innovative programming like a vegetable garden in every school, are now completely sidelined, their email addresses removed from the board’s website and families left with no one to turn to for support. Well paid Ministry appointed supervisors now run the eight school boards in question, with salaries in the hundreds of thousands, vs. trustees who were elected by you, to represent you, and who earned a very small honoraria for doing so. Why is Ford taking over school boards? Who benefits? Who represents parents now? It’s unlikely we’ll get them but we need answers. Now.

Still on education: Grade “D-”

You will never convince me other-

wise; an educated populace is the best possible outcome for a nation. Education, and easy access to it, are the hallmarks of a well-functioning society. The recently decimated OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) is a prime example of a failure by the government to recognize the importance of education. Then again, having left school in Grade 11 and handed an already established business to run, perhaps the Premier thinks the rest of us don’t need an education either. I’ve assigned a grade of D- instead of “F” only because like any government program I’m sure OSAP might have needed a little tweaking. However, by removing access to education by way of supportive funding, Ford directly impacts those who need it most, marginalized and under-served communities already struggling.

The environment: Grade “F”

This one matters to us, Caledon. With CBM/Votorantim proposing a massive, below-the-water-line blasting quarry for Alton, decimation of the surrounding environment is certain. Area wells, groundwater, the Credit River system, loss of tree cover and habitat - it’s all at risk. Caledon’s Site Alteration ByLaw (proposed, but still not revealed to residents) has already had many of its proposals disallowed by the Ford government. The ongoing battle against allowing construction fill to be dumped in defunct Caledon area pits, or worse, into fully rehabilitated lakes, suggests we are at the epicentre of an environmental disaster. Add in what’s potentially happening as part of Bill 60, where our entire water system could well fall into the hands of private corporations, and there’s no predicting what could go wrong. Or is there? Walkerton comes to mind.

On Democracy: Grade “F”

In addition to education, another fundamental of a democracy is the freedom to question the integrity of the government and hold it to account.

The PC government has been fighting Freedom of Information requests in court for years. Specifically, at every step, Mr. Ford has challenged our right to see what goes into government decision making processes. Despite legally being directed by the courts to disclose the contents of his phone (including texts and emails that may be related to the greenbelt scandal) Ford has not only refused, but is now threatening to actually change the law instead. Citing everything from constituent privacy to “Chinese communists,” Ford simply chooses to ignore the democratic process and the courts. I mean, that’s how it works in most authoritarian nations right? Oops, I mean democratic.

We could go on and on. The never-ending report card on a government seemingly hell-bent on refusing to be held to account for anything. Who cares about report cards when we can change the law to suit our needs. Who cares about democracy when we can simply seize airport property calling it a “special economic zone,” which sounds suspiciously similar to an MZO to me. Caledon has had their fair share of those. Who cares about any of this? You should.

Everything from the air we breathe, to the water we drink, to how development happens here in Caledon is at grave risk because of the decisions not only of Mr. Ford and his government, but other like-minded fellow politicians are making. Then again, without equal access to education, with the removal of democratically elected school trustees, and changes to the Freedom of Information Act - plus, allowing us poor, thirsty citizens to bring our own booze to the park (did we ask for that) perhaps soon enough, none of us will be capable of caring.

Access to information, NO. Booze? Sure.



Family dog Dumbledore located as Police continue home invasion investigation

BY BROCK WEIR

Some good news following a March 17 home invasion in Caledon – the family dog, Dumbledore, has been found safe after fleeing the scene.

The OPP’s Caledon Detachment continues its investigation into a home invasion that took place in the early hours of March 17.

Police were called to reports of a robbery at a residents near Mount Hope Road and Old Church Road at 1.50 a.m.

Four suspects were observed fleeing the area in a dark-coloured SUV, according to the OPP.

Following the launch of the investigation, Police reported Dumbledore could not be located.

“The investigation into the robbery remains ongoing by Caledon Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) with assistance from the Caledon Major Crime Unit (MCU) and Forensic Identification Services (FIS). There is no threat to public safety at this time,” say Police.

Investigators are asking anyone with information or surveillance footage from the area to contact the Caledon CSCU via email at 13417@opp.ca or via phone at (905) 584-2241. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.



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BUSINESS

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Renewed Hope to hold Grand Opening for Thrift Cafe in Downtown Bolton



PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

For the past several months, Tim, Margarida and their team of volunteers with Renewed Hope have been hard at work bringing their new home to Downtown Bolton. On April 11 at 10:30 a.m., they’re excited to welcome the community to the grand opening of their brand-new space at 55 Queen St. N, Bolton. Renewed Hope is a registered non-profit

that has been serving communities for over two decades, and they recently brought their efforts to Caledon in October through their Mobile Mercy Units (MMUs). Their team has been out in the Caledon community, bringing warm clothes and food, but they wanted to bring something a little more permanent. Enter Renewed Hope’s new headquarters. More than just an office, they’re bringing a thrift cafe to the Downtown Bolton core. Tim says they wanted to create something more interactive for the community, a space

for people to connect. “If they’re having a downer day, you’re going to come here, you’re going to have an upper day,” says Tim. “It’s part of who we are, you need to leave better than you came, and whatever needs to be done to make that happen, we’ll be happy to help facilitate. Sometimes it’s just a kind word or a friendly voice.” For more than two years, Margarida has envisioned operating a thrift cafe, somewhere warm for the community to come together.

Now they’re bringing it to life, with so much more. Renewed Hope says the space is designed to be a place where people from all walks of life can gather to enjoy a thrifting experience, try their handcrafted coffee, or savour their freshly made treats. In a collaboration with Caledon’s Cordoba Coffee, Renewed Hope has partnered with them to create a handcrafted coffee blend unique to them. In the summer, they aim to bring out patio furniture for the community to enjoy as well. “I think one of the biggest comments we keep hearing from everyone is that Bolton needs this,” says Tim. He adds a large part of their mission ties back to their name, Renewed Hope. “It was something that was hinging on what was necessary, that people needed their hope renewed,” says Tim. He says something as simple as a coffee or a smile to something more extensive, such as counselling, they’re seeking ways to re-new people’s hope. At their new location, there will also be a counselling office, located for entry on the Mill Street side of their building. Here, Renewed Hope brings in Dr. Vidoll Regisford, a psychotherapy and counselling practitioner who has a background in clinical and leadership roles. He will be available in that section of their headquarters for counselling and psychotherapy services to those in need.

Continued on Page A11

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CVC hosts annual Maple Syrup in the Park Festival

Continued from FRONT

For those with a sweet tooth, there is also the opportunity to try real maple syrup on site, complete with a pancake breakfast. The opportunities for learning at the festival are endless. CVC holds sessions to learn about possible ways Indigenous Peoples may have made syr-

up and sugar from maple sap, as well as the chance to watch historical demonstrations of how settlers made maple syrup. Attendees can also see a traditional sweat lodge (Maddoodiswan), learn how Indigenous Peoples honour Mother Earth's sacred connection to healing, and listen to traditional helpers (Os-

hkaabewis) as a fire keeper shares stories and songs that reflect responsibilities to the land. That's not all: provided was the chance to hike the Sap Bucket Trail to the sugarbush to watch sap being collected from sugar maple trees, and to visit the sugar shack to learn how maple syrup is made using modern techniques.

One of the available education stations was the evaporation station at the sugar shack. The evaporation process for maple syrup involves boiling raw maple sap to remove water, concentrating it to a much higher sugar percentage. CVC was on-site to showcase the true work that goes into

each maple syrup bottle. CVC Crew Member at Terra Cotta Riley MacArthur was working the Maple Syrup Festival for the first time this year, but is no stranger to the festival itself. "I remember going to it as a kid, even here at Terra Cotta. It's really cool to circle back and come and do it and be on

the other side of the fence and get to educate," says MacArthur. "That is my favourite part about our Maple Syrup Festival, is the education part of it, seeing all the young kids come up and raise their hands, asking questions." The station itself, she laughed, was a little daunting, taking on keeping consistent temperatures and the

boiling process, but worth it when they drain it off and get to try their hard work. "It's such a candid Canadian kid experience to go see maple syrup at the Sugarbush," she says. Sandy Camplin, CVC's conservation parks senior coordinator, says they've been running the festival at Terra Cotta Conservation Area for more

than 10 years. She says not only is it a popular event in the community, but they also get to bring a lot of new people to the conservation area and showcase what conservation areas have to offer. "For maple syrup itself, it's a Canadian tradition that everyone should at least take part in or get an opportunity to take part in," adds Camplin. The festival also gives them the chance to discuss conservation efforts. "We try to incorporate some of those nature pieces and conservation pieces, talking about climate change and the differences that we might see in the future from maple syrup," explains Camplin. "Just trying to encompass that whole time frame when maple syrup started to be something to now"

As well as incorporating something for everyone, she says, giving kids an opportunity to try tools and bringing out traditional art that they may not see anywhere else, on top of games and other attractions for young ones not quite ready to take on the educational aspects. In the past few years, she explains, they have made an effort to involve and include Indigenous partners in the festival. As part of their ongoing efforts to develop the Credit Valley trail, they have a partnership with Indigenous communities. "With that we have an Indigenous roundtable, a group that we go to, to work with and make some decisions with. That's become a really big part of Credit Valley, and then, in parks, however we can, so now that we've built that relationship, how else can we grow that relationship?" says Camplin. As Indigenous groups are growing an education component for the community, CVC hopes to provide them with the platform to do so, she says, including events like their maple syrup in the Park Festival, where people are interested and asking questions. On March 22, Grandmother Kim Wheatley joined the celebration to hold ancestral storytelling sessions for the community, where participants could explore traditional Anishinaabe teachings through stories shared during this seasonal cycle of maple syrup harvesting. "Maple syrup comes from my people, but not many people associate it with us," says Wheatley. "For my Anishinaabe ancestors, this was the time when we came together. When we not only shared the practice and the how-tos, but the different ways in which this would be applied, and to honor the spirit of the gift, because those trees that this beautiful sweet water comes from is a living being, and one that is so important."

Notice of Application for Approval to Expropriate Land

Form 2 Expropriations Act

In the matter of an application by the Ministry of Transportation for approval to expropriate land, pursuant to s.11(2) and subsection 11.1(3) of the *Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act*, being in the Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel, Province of Ontario.

for the purpose(s) of: Subject lands are required for the proposed ROW of Highway 413, Highway 410 extension and freeway to freeway ramps, transitway, and interchange ramps from west of Kennedy to Dixie along the Highway 413 alignment and from Mayfield to Highway 413 along the Highway 410 alignment and all works related hereto.

Notice is hereby given that application has been made for approval to expropriate the land described in the schedule attached hereto.

The approving authority is the Minister of Transportation with an address of:

Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200

Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given, who desires to comment on the proposed expropriation of the land for the described purpose(s) may do so by submitting the comment within the time stated herein to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Transportation Infrastructure Management Division, Ministry of Transportation, in writing.

The Ministry will review the comments for their technical/engineering information, having regard to the need for the land for the purposes of the project.

The Assistant Deputy Minister must receive the comments within thirty days after the owner is served with this notice, or within thirty days after the first publication of the notice.

The comments must be sent:

By e-mail to: Property.Process@ontario.ca

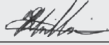
Or by mail to: Assistant Deputy Minister
Transportation and Infrastructure Management
Ministry of Transportation
4th Floor, Garden City Tower
301 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7R4

Please include the municipal address of the land in the comment.

The expropriating authority is the Minister of Transportation with an address of:

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200

Minister of Transportation

Per: 
c/o Brigitha Thillainadarajah
Conveyancing Supervisor
159 Sir William Hearst Avenue
3rd Floor, Bldg. D
Toronto, ON M3M 0B7

SCHEDULE A

All right, title and interest in the following lands in Town of Caledon, Regional Municipality of Peel, Province of Ontario, being:

- ALL of PIN 14235-0674 (LT), being Part of Lot 22, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 1, 2 and 3 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0057 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42183.
- ALL of PIN 14235-0678 (LT), being Part of Lot 21, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 4, 5 and 6 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0057 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42183.
- PART of PIN 14235-6818 (LT), being Part of Lot 18, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon, shown as Parts 3 and 4 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0054 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42190.
- PART of PIN 14235-4665 (LT), being Part of Lot 18, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon, shown as Part 2 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0054 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42190.
- PART of PIN 14235-4664 (LT), being Part of Lot 19, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 8 to 11, all inclusive, on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0055 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42150; Part 10 subject to an easement as set out in Instrument No. PR3562553.
- PART of PIN 14235-4662 (LT), being Part of Lot 19, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 5 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0055 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42150.
- PART of PIN 14235-4661 (LT), being Part of Lot 20, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 2 and 3 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0055 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42150.
- PART of PIN 14297-0427 (LT), being Part of Lot 25, Concession 1 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 2 and 3 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0029 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41908.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0082 (LT), being Part of Lot 25, Concession 1 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 8 and 9 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0029 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41908.
- PART of PIN 14297-0080 (LT), being Part of Lot 25, Concession 1 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 10 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0029 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41908.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0104 (LT), being Part of Lot 24, Concession 1 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 6 and 7 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0064 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42191.
- PART of PIN 14297-0088 (LT), being Part of Lot 25, Concession 2 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 18 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0029 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41908.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0110 (LT), being Part of Lot 24, Concession 2 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 19 and 20 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0029 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41908.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0113 (LT), being Part of Lot 24, Concession 2 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 3 to 6, all inclusive, on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0062 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42157.
- PART of PIN 14297-0447 (LT), being Part of Lot 25, Concession 2 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 1, 2, and 3 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0030 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41909; Part 2 subject to an easement in gross as set out in Instrument No. PR4162297.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0092 (LT), being Part of Lot 25, Concession 2 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 1 and 2 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0062 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42157.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0178 (LT), being Part of Lot 24, Concession 2 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 9 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0030 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41909.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0114 (LT), being Part of Lot 24, Concession 2 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 10 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0030 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41909.
- PART of PIN 14297-0445 (LT), being Part of Lot 24, Concession 2 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 16 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0030 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41909.
- PART of PIN 14297-0149 (LT), being Part of Lot 25, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 1 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0033 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41894.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0448 (LT), being Part of Lot 25, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 6 and 7 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0033 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41894.
- PART of PIN 14297-0449 (LT), being Part of Lot 25, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 2, 3 and 5 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0033 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41894.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0152 (LT), being Part of Lot 25, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 10 and 11 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0033 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41894.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0156 (LT), being Part of Lot 24, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 1 and 2 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0031 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41895.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0158 (LT), being Part of Lot 24, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 2 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0032 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41896.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0159 (LT), being Part of Lot 24, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 3 and 4 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0032 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41896.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0164 (LT), being Part of Lot 23, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Parts 5 and 6 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0032 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41896.
- ALL of PIN 14297-0179 (LT), being Part of Lot 23, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 1 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0061 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42160.
- PART of PIN 14235-0672 (LT), being Part of Lot 22, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 1 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0050 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41897.
- PART of PIN 14235-0692 (LT), being Part of Lot 22, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 4 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0037 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41898.
- PART of PIN 14235-7076 (LT), being Part of Lot 22, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 7 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0037 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-41898.
- PART of PIN 14235-5000 (LT), being Part of Lot 18, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 1 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0052 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42216; Part 1 subject to an easement as set out in Instrument No. PR1517620.
- PART of PIN 14235-1664 (LT), being Part of Lot 18, Concession 3 East of Hurontario Street, Geographic Township of Chinguacousy, Town of Caledon; shown as Part 2 on a plan filed with the Ministry of Transportation as P-5152-0052 being a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Peel as Plan 43R-42216.

THIS NOTICE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED ON MARCH 26, 2026:

Continued from Page A12

It is a holistic engagement in which they make offerings, sing songs, offer medicines, and give thanks with their words, emotions, and spirits, she says.

Maple syrup is used in numerous ways, she says, including as medicine, a sweetener, or an indulgent treat.

Coming to the festival that day and share stories and teachings was everything to her, she says.

“The invitation to embrace restorative practices to really support the healing of a targeted group of people in this country who experienced cultural genocide, it’s everything for me,” says Wheatley. “I’m still here. I’m still alive. I’m still able to transmit and share the wisdom and knowledge of our ancestors, whole and complete.

“I’m able to connect to my own personal sense of healing and contribution by validating what I carry and how to do that in a good way with kindness and love and respect, and to feel the receptivity of the audience,” she adds.

Wheatley says the people who come to these kinds of gatherings and festivals not only want to learn, but also open themselves to learning in a multiplicity of ways.

“Storytelling and song is one of the most powerful, universal languages on earth,” she says, “And that’s what I did this past weekend. I sang, I told stories that we tell in a seasonally appropriate time, and invited a little Q&A. But, really [I] felt present and honoured to be the voice that was heard.”

She has been to the festival prior, but says every time is a different experience.

“I never take for granted the opportunity to hold space,

because I don’t just get to be Grandmother Kim, I represent all Indigenous people, if you’ve never met us or heard our stories before. I get to stretch what you have been taught,” she says. “Telling stories is not only a great joy; it’s a nudge and reminder that I carry the ancestral responsibility of my people. Which is to remind people how to be in the right relationship with the land, and if it’s through maple syrup and tapping trees, so be it. It’s a rich, rich, rich experience for me.”

Wheatley hopes to challenge “historic amnesia,” and wants all Canadians to embrace the “under-tapped resource of our living presentness now.”

What better way, she says, than by telling stories and singing.

Part of her storytelling session was a smudging ceremony.

“Our storytelling is always interconnected with our cultural practices and values, and smudging is a kindness. If we’re going to engage in a good way, I need to prepare you,” she explains.

“For some it may be rare, new, unusual, but at least we are offering, from our hearts to your hearts, a way to connect beyond just the stories and the songs.”

She adds she wants to invite people to come and sit when opportunities arise.

“You never know what you’re going to get. You never know how connected you might feel as a result of, but to know that we’re still here thriving and surviving. We are not a disappearing race, and our culture is not forgotten.”

The festival will continue on March 28 and 29, with a full schedule of activities posted on CVC’s website.



Traditional Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley
PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Meeting Proposed
Town-initiated Official Plan Amendment

FILE NUMBER: POPA 2026-0003

You are invited to provide your input at a statutory Public Meeting about a proposed Town-initiated official plan amendment to implement the provincially designated Highway 413 and Northwest GTA Transmission Corridor in the Town’s official plan documents.

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026
Public Meeting Start Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber, Town Hall, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East

How to Participate:

The Town of Caledon offers a hybrid meeting model with multiple ways for members of the public to participate and engage with Council.

- Attend In-Person: members of the public may attend the meeting in-person and provide verbal comments regarding the proposed applications or sit in the gallery to watch the meeting. Although registration is not mandatory, members of the public are encouraged to complete the Participation Request Form, available at www.caledon.ca/speak-at-council. Please be advised that the venue holding this Public Meeting does have a maximum capacity and in-person attendees will be limited to that capacity.
- Submit a Written Comments: submit written comments regarding the proposed application by completing the Participation Request Form, available at www.caledon.ca/speak-at-council
- Virtually: participate via phone or Zoom upon request. For more information, please visit contact Agenda@caledon.ca. Please note that there are deadlines to request participation at the Public Meeting.

You can also ask questions or provide comments by:

- Submitting written correspondence to agenda@caledon.ca and planning@caledon.ca for consideration during the Public Meeting. Please note that written comments will form part of the public record.
- Contacting Planning staff or the Lead Planner during office hours by phone or email.
- Booking an appointment to visit Town Hall to speak with Planning staff. Visit www.caledon.ca/development for more information.
- Members of the public are encouraged to view the meeting via the livestream available on the Town’s website.

LOCATION:

The proposed official plan amendment applies to all lands subject to the existing and proposed designations for the highway and transmission corridor, as shown on the map below.

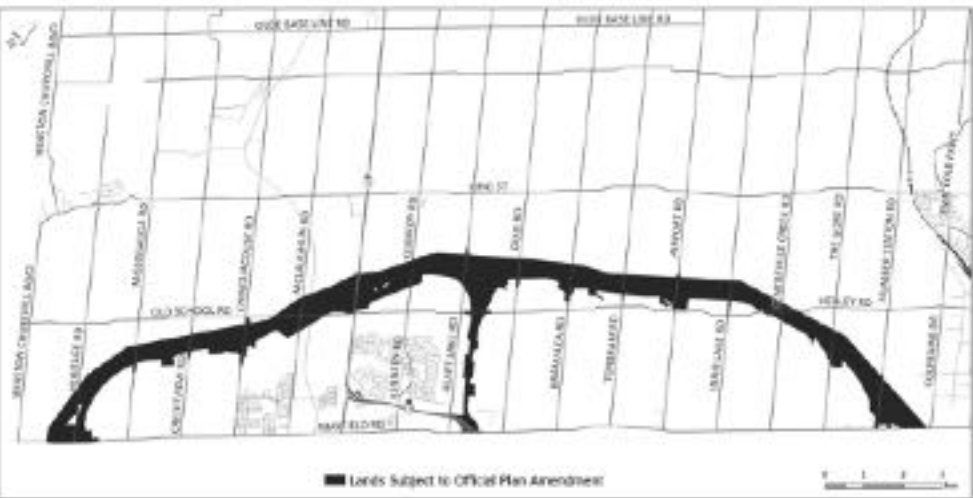
PROPOSED CHANGES:

The purpose of this Town-initiated Official Plan Amendment (OPA) is to update policies and mapping to implement the provincially designated Highway 413 and Northwest GTA Transmission Corridor in the Future Caledon Official Plan, 1978 Town of Caledon Official Plan and Region of Peel Official Plan.

The proposed OPA would:

- modify all relevant official plan mapping to be consistent with the provincial designation of Highway 413 under the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act, including the most current Controlled Access Highway Designation (2025) and the Northwest GTA Transmission Corridor Narrowed Area of Interest (2025);
- adjust the Urban Area boundary to maintain alignment with the Highway 413 and the Northwest GTA Transmission Corridor, which will result in a net reduction to the Urban Area; and
- update relevant policy references to reflect the mapping changes.

A copy of the draft OPA will be available at the following link on or before March 26, 2026:
www.caledon.ca/en/government/transportation-studies.aspx



LEAD PLANNER:

Gurkanwal Boparai, Senior Planner, Policy
Email: Gurkanwal.Boparai@caledon.ca
Phone: 905-584-2272, 4024

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information about this matter, including appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Official Plan Amendment 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.

APPEAL PROCEDURE:

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Town of Caledon to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the

Town of Caledon before the proposed official plan amendment/by-law is adopted/passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Town of Caledon before the proposed official plan amendment/by-law is adopted/passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Caledon on the proposed official plan amendment, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Town of

Caledon, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, Ontario L7C 1J6.

ACCESSIBILITY:

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

Multi-Tenant Landowners: Please post this notice in a visible location to all residents of the land.

Notice Date: March 26, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Meeting Proposed
Town-initiated Official Plan and Zoning
By-law Amendments

File Number(s): POPA 2026-006 and RZ 2026-006

You are invited to provide your input at a statutory Public Meeting about proposed Town-initiated official plan and zoning by-law amendments to establish new mineral aggregate policies and regulations town-wide.

Meeting date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026
Meeting start time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber, Town Hall, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

The Town of Caledon offers a hybrid meeting model with multiple ways for members of the public to participate and engage with Council.

- Attend In-Person: members of the public may attend the meeting in-person and provide verbal comments regarding the proposed applications or sit in the gallery to watch the meeting. Although registration is not mandatory, members of the public are encouraged to complete the Participation Request Form, available at www.caledon.ca/speak-at-council. Please be advised that the venue holding this Public Meeting does have a maximum capacity and in-person attendees will be limited to that capacity.
- Submit a Written Comments: submit written comments regarding the proposed application by completing the Participation Request Form, available at www.caledon.ca/speak-at-council
- Virtually: participate via phone or Zoom upon request. For more information, please visit contact Agenda@caledon.ca. Please note that there are deadlines to request participation at the Public Meeting.

You can also ask questions or provide comments by:

- Submitting written correspondence to agenda@caledon.ca and planning@caledon.ca for consideration during the Public Meeting. Please note that written comments will form part of the public record.
- Contacting Planning staff or the Lead Planner during office hours by phone or email.
- Booking an appointment to visit Town Hall to speak with Planning staff. Visit www.caledon.ca/development for more information.
- Members of the public are encouraged to view the meeting via the livestream available on the Town’s website.

LOCATION:

The proposed official plan and zoning by-law amendments would apply town-wide.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

Official Plan Amendment Number 1 (Mineral Aggregates Policies), as originally adopted by Council, implemented the recommendations of the 2024 Supplementary Aggregate Policy Study and further directions from Council. OPA 1 was approved with modifications by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and came into effect on January 7, 2026.

As directed by Council, a new official plan amendment is proposed to establish and/or reintroduce mineral aggregate-related policies based upon review of the Province’s modifications to OPA 1. The individual amendments to add or restore text are consistent with or conform to Provincial policy and plans and support the Town’s stated objectives of improving the conditions of mineral aggregate operations in the Town, in addition to addressing other technical items to implement those new policies.

The proposed zoning by-law amendment would repeal and replace the By-law 2024-083 (Mineral Aggregate-related Zoning Regulations), which was passed in October 2024 to establish new zoning regulations in conformity with OPA 1, as originally adopted by Council. The new zoning by-law amendment corrects technical errors in the original by-law and ensure conformity with the approved mineral aggregate-related policies in the Future Caledon Official Plan and the proposed official plan amendment described above.

The draft official plan and zoning by-law amendments will be available at the following link on or before March 31, 2026: haveyoursaycaledon.ca/supplementary-aggregate-resource-policy-study

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

If you are unable to attend the information session but would like to receive email updates about the Town’s aggregate policy implementation projects, please contact the Lead Planner. You may also ask questions or provide comments to a Lead Planner by mail, email, or phone. The best way to stay up-to-date is to register for project updates through the Have Your Say Caledon project webpage, available at <https://haveyoursaycaledon.ca/supplementary-aggregate-resource-policy-study>

LEAD PLANNERS:

Joe Nethery, MCIP, RPP
Nethery Planning
Caledon@netheryplanning.ca
289-902-3903

Kyle Munro
Community Planner, Strategic Policy Planning
Planning and Development Department
kyle.munro@caledon.ca
905-584-2272 x.4247

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information about this matter, including appeal rights, a copy of the proposed Official Plan Amendment 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.

APPEAL PROCEDURE:

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Town of Caledon to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Caledon before the proposed official plan amendment/by-law is adopted/passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Town of Caledon before the proposed official plan amendment/by-law is adopted/passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Caledon on the proposed official plan amendment and/or zoning by-law amendment, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Town of Caledon, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, Ontario L7C 1J6.

ACCESSIBILITY:

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

Multi-Tenant Landowners: Please post this notice in a visible location to all residents of the land.

Notice Date: March 26, 2026



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“This is not just an isolated incident”

Mother says son faces anti-Black racism at Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Sandra Anderson has had her children in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board for all their lives. Now, she says her Grade 9 son experienced a hate-motivated incident and is faced with a lack of a safe education space.

Anderson says her son, who attends Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School, came back from school one day in February appearing stressed and dysregulated.

Anderson’s son is autistic, and struggled to find the words to explain what had happened.

Through conversation, Anderson learned her son had been called a hate-motivated word during one of his classes that day.

She initially called the school before the weekend and, over the weekend, had multiple conversations with her son, explaining the gravity of the situation.

“We’ve actually had to have several conversations with [him] to get him to understand that this is not acceptable, this has nothing to do with you, this is just a person’s level of ignorance,” says Anderson.

After the weekend, the school called Anderson and she learned that her son had been taken into the school’s office to provide his account of the situation.

“This was problematic because for him, that’s overwhelming for him to get pulled into an office,” explains Anderson.

Through Anderson, her son, and his sister, they were able to recount the situation to the school.

Anderson says she was reassured that the student involved in the incident would not be in class that afternoon, that they would conduct an investigation, and that they would call her back before the end of the day.

When she picked her son up from the bus stop that day, she learned the student involved in the incident was still in his class that same day.

Her son then told her he didn’t want to go to that class anymore.

It was heartbreaking for Anderson, she explains, as he loves this class and worked

hard to get it on to his schedule.

Anderson also claims she was not contacted again by the school that day.

“My understanding is, a promise was made that the student would not be in the classroom. When I picked my child up, he was again, still very dysregulated, and the kid was in the classroom,” says Anderson.

When she called the school again to explain the situation, she was told no promises had been made regarding a second reach out.

The school said, according to Anderson, that although they cannot discuss the details because they involve another student’s privacy, they told Anderson they spoke to all 27 students in the classroom and that no one saw or heard anything.

“Based on your policy, that kind of aggression toward a student is an automatic suspension, so you did not believe my son, and you believed the other student,” she says.

“The moment when you decided to put that student back in that classroom, without any kind of consequences, they didn’t miss a minute of class, they didn’t miss a day of school, you gave them the license to now become an aggressor towards my son, an aggressor to any other Black student in your school. That’s what you’ve done.”

Since February 27, she says she has not heard back from the school, and her son has missed six days of school for fear of being in the same room as the alleged other student.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board said in a statement to the Citizen that they take matters involving discriminatory language, racism, and student safety very seriously.

“Upon being made aware of the concern, the principal of Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School conducted a thorough investigation. This included interviewing 27 students and speaking directly with parents and staff to ensure all perspectives were heard and fully understood.” reads the statement.

“To support the well-being of the student involved, as with all our students, a number of structures are in place, to ensure that the student would feel safe, support-

ed, and included within their learning environment. Such structures are developed collaboratively, reviewed regularly, and adjusted as necessary to meet student needs. More broadly, the DPCDSB has clear procedures and policies that guide how schools respond to allegations of discrimination or unsafe behaviour. These include prompt review of concerns, engagement with families, and the use of appropriate supports and progressive discipline measures where required.”

Since the incident, Anderson has involved numerous organizations and filed multiple reports.

“And I’m not going to stop,” she says.

She says that this is not just a single issue but a broader systemic pattern within the school board.

“This is not just an isolated incident where you chose not to take any kind of action, or took the wrong action,” says Anderson, adding that she’s seen this happen numerous times to other students in the school board.

Anderson draws attention to the 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan to Dismantle An-

ti-Black Racism launched by the DPCDSB.

“They’re not doing it, they’re not following it, they’re in violation of their own policies. It’s just a glorified document,” she says.

From her children’s time within the school board, she says she has not seen anything in relation to the strategic plan.

“While this particular incident might have struck a chord in terms of bringing this to light, it’s because it’s the frequency in which these incidents are occurring and the way that the school has chosen not to address it at all,” says Anderson.

Anderson says it’s time the school board begins to follow their own policy.

“Why are they not being held accountable to follow it? You can’t just create it and put it on a bookshelf and leave it there when you’re having students that are being negatively impacted by this.”

“I teach all my children their values. They know who they are. They know that they are a valuable member of society, and don’t let anyone tell you otherwise. You are valued, you are important, and you can’t let people, by using these words, try to tear you down.”

Celebrate Earth Hour this Saturday

Residents are invited to come together for Earth Hour 2026 with an evening of activities focused on sustainability and family-friendly fun.

The Town of Caledon, in partnership with Caledon Public Library and ecoCaledon, will host this year’s celebration at the Caledon East Community Complex on Saturday, March 28, from 6 – 10 p.m.

Event highlights Include:

- Eco Marketplace – Meet local sustainable vendors and explore products, services, and ideas that support greener living.
- Pledge for the Planet – Take part in a community commitment by choosing one sustainable action to carry forward throughout the year.
- Library-Led Activities – Visit the Caledon East branch between 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. for earth hour activities, including a story time by flashlight. Stop by the Cory Trépanier Creativity Studio between 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. for interactive experiences, live makerspace

demonstrations, and more!

- Dimly Lit Yoga – Join us for a complimentary drop-in yoga session led by a fitness specialist under dimmed lights from 7 – 8 p.m. All participants will be required to check in at Customer Service to obtain a class ticket.
- Giveaways and Prizes – Enjoy the chance to win eco-friendly prizes.
- Snacks and Refreshments – Free treats and refreshments will be available throughout the evening.

All Caledon Public Library branches will also offer Earth Hour-themed activities on March 28, 2026 during regular business hours.

Earth Hour is a global movement encouraging people to take simple actions in support of the planet. Residents who can’t attend the event in person are still encouraged to participate by switching off all non-essential lights from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

For more information, visit caledon.ca/environment.



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Bolton Brewers’ Brett Chater named MVP at North Dufferin Baseball League’s 2025 Awards Ceremony

Chater’s .524 average led the twelve-team Senior Division

BY JIM STEWART

Bolton Brewers’ shortstop and leadoff hitter Brett Chater was named Senior Division MVP at the North Dufferin Baseball League 2025 Awards Ceremony last week in Lisle.

Chater’s prolific hitting and spectacular play at shortstop earned him the Bruce Jenkins Memorial Trophy as the NDBL’s MVP for the second consecutive season. The long-time Brewer also captured the Creemore Star Trophy for leading the 12-team Senior loop in hitting last year with a .524 average.

Brewers Player-Coach Mike Wallace praised Chater’s talents on and off the diamond.

“He’s tremendously focused. You can tell he’s going to have a great game just by watching his BP.

Coach Wallace contextualized Chater’s well-deserved recognition by the League: “Although we didn’t win it last year—it definitely wasn’t a perfect season—we wouldn’t have got to where we did [into the second round of the playoffs] without him and Brett definitely earned it. One thing that stands out in Brett’s case in addition to his great skill is that he stayed healthy and remained Mr. Consistency. He didn’t take a pitch off all season.”

The veteran bench boss acknowledged Chater’s long-time contributions to the Brewers.

“He’s been at lead off and shortstop since he came in from the Bolton Juniors and after playing rep ball in Brampton.

Brett’s been with us since 2009—he was 22 when he started and he’s in his mid-30s now. Overall, he’s always been the first one to arrive and the last one to leave.”

Wallace—the team’s second baseman/DH and three-spot hitter—has played alongside Chater for over 15 years and offered some intangibles to explain why the five-tool ballplayer deserved the 2025 NDBL MVP.

“His leadership skills on the diamond were recognized. We’re going through a transition with many new ballplayers on the roster. They look up to Brett and seek his advice. They couldn’t pick a better guy to get a hitting tip from. He’s also helped manage when I’ve been away with my rep team.”

The affable manager was also pleased to see the League recognize Chris Fafalios, the Brewers’ steady leftfielder and mid-order hitter, for his diligent administrative work, including his recent three-year term as NDBL President and Chief Statistician.

Coach Wallace recognized his long-time player’s contributions to the League.

“Chris did a tremendous job for the League—not an easy job at the best of times, especially as President and our League statistician. He’s a typical baseball gamer and has made the League better. We’re lucky to have him here. It’s obvious that he loves the game and is a leader in so many ways. He’s coaching two teams in Aurora and still serving as an Umpire-in-Chief.”

In addition to singing the praises of Chater and Fafalios, Wallace is preparing the next crop of prospective Brewers by coaching the 14U AAA Caledon Nationals—the first Elite rep baseball team to play in Bolton.

Both his baseball clubs—the Brewers and the Nationals – will be inaugural tenants of Caledon’s sparkling ballpark in



Bolton Brewers’ shortstop and leadoff hitter Brett Chater earned the NDBL’s 2025 Senior Division MVP Award for the second consecutive season. PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

north Bolton and the dual-Head Coach can’t wait to get to the new digs.

“Taylor Field—just off the Emil Kolb Parkway—is slated to open on time so we’ll be moving in soon. We’re looking forward to two beautiful fields there with grass infields. 310’ down the lines. Pitchers won’t like the park as much, but our hitters are going to like it. Those fly balls caught up in the wind in our old park won’t be caught at Taylor Field. We’ll have state of the art dugouts, too, and lots of bleachers and stands. We’re also moving our home games from Thursday to Monday nights so we’re looking forward to prime-time Mon-

day Night Baseball.”

Coach Wallace also disclosed some changes regarding Bolton’s traditional uniform which will coincide with their upcoming tenancy at Taylor Field: “We’re re-branding the Brewers. We’ll be retiring the old lighter blue and gold jerseys and going to a more Navy-look in our jerseys with grey pants—kind of a [University of] Michigan look.”

The new-look Brewers will take the field in their Navy and Grey uniforms on May 3 when they open the 2026 season in Lisle versus the Astros.

Junior C hockey starts division playoffs across the province

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

Junior C hockey fans are turning out in droves as the 2026 division playoffs are underway and teams battle it out to see which hockey clubs will be moving on to the provincial Schmalz Cup championship playoffs this season.

There are eight Junior C divisions across the province.

In the North Carruthers Division, the Al-liston Hornets and Stayner Siskins are tied after the first two games.

The Hornets won Game 1 of the series with a huge 6-1 win. The Siskins blasted onto the ice in Game 2 and won 4-2 to even the series.

In the Pollock Division, the Fergus Whalers and the Hanover Barons are tied after two games.

Fergus won the opener 6-0. The Barons fought back in Game 2 and won 3-2 to even the series.

The Uxbridge Bruins and the Clarington Eagles are tied in their Orr Division championship series.

Uxbridge won Game 1, 6-1. Clarington responded with a 4-3 win in Game 2 of the series.

After the weekend, the Frankford Hus-

kies are leading 1-0 over the Lakefield Chiefs in the Tod Division final.

The Huskies won Game 1, 4-2 on Saturday, March 21.

In Niagara, the Dundas Blues moved to a 1-0 lead over the Niagara RiverHawks in their Bloomfield Division final.

Dundas won the first game 5-2.

The Doherty Division has the Tavistock Braves leading the Woodstock Navy Vets 2-0 in their series.

The Braves won Game 1 with a score of 5-1, then followed up with another 5-1 win in the second game of the series.

In the Yeck Division, the series is tied after the first two games between the North Middlesex Stars and the Mt. Brydges Bulldogs.

Mt. Brydges won Game 1, 4-3. North Middlesex took Game 2 by a score of 3-0.

In the southwest area of the province, the Essex 73s are leading the Lakeshore Canadiens 2-0 in their final series.

In Game 1, the Canadiens won the shut-out, 1-0.

Essa responded in Game 2 with a 4-1 win.

All division championships will wrap up by April 2.



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One Caledon Many Hearts initiative continues, now spanning more than 20 schools

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

With the One Caledon Many Hearts initiative continuing to grow across Caledon schools, it's clear it holds a special place in many schools' hearts.

The initiative, begun by Diana Mollicone, owner of Coffee Time in Bolton, is a school-based art project focused on kindness, belonging, and community.

Mollicone passed out small wooden hearts to Caledon schools for the students to decorate and take their own creative liberties with.

For months, Caledon has seen heart trees, heart designs, patterns and more.

One school has taken it a step further, making the display permanent in their halls.

Gracing the halls at St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School in Bolton is their take on the initiative; their hearts hang next to inspiring quotes – and they have no plans to take it down.

The heart display flows into their diversity hallway, matching the numerous other permanent fixtures they've added, including their Black History Month and Have a Heart Day displays, all of which have been lovingly created by their teachers and students.

Planning time teacher Danielle Hassberger spent days gluing and arranging the One Caledon Many Hearts display on their walls.

Hassberger explains that, with the two other projects they were running, they all became connected to one another.

“Our whole theme through Black History Month was to use your voice and be the power of one person to make a difference in someone else's life, it actually really tied in nicely,” says Hassberger.

She says students were encouraged to write a message of kindness for the One Caledon Many Hearts initiative, something that would cheer someone up on a bad day.

When she was putting them up, she noticed how beautiful the quotes and art were.



An array of hearts on display throughout Caledon's schools.

PHOTO MONTAGE BY RILEY MURPHY

“We wanted to make it a permanent display because it fit in with our prayer space,” says Hassberger. “We wanted it to be a place where kids could come and look for their hearts and read the messages as they go.”

She noted that students have already been stopping to read the wall as they walk past.

“It brightens up the hallway, but it also is a talking point for kids to stop and just have a moment for reflection,” she adds. “And like I said, if you're having a bad day, there's a lot of nice messages there that can cheer you up.”

For the past few months, Mollicone has been able to watch the project come to fruition as schools have sent over their displays.

“I'm just really thankful for all the parents, teachers, and EAs in my network who helped me reach every school in Caledon,” says Mollicone. “What's been most special is seeing each school make it their own, whether through patterns, positive messages, or reflecting students' interests.”

“The displays are absolutely lovely, and I'm so excited this came together the way it did.”

OBITUARIES

ROBERT (BOB) ELLIOT WINEGAR, P.ENG APRIL 18, 1940 – MARCH 11, 2026

At Bethell House in Inglewood, Robert passed away surrounded by his wife of 58 years, Joyce (Boettger), and daughters Tracy E. Winegar and Ivy Michelle Young.

“Poppa” will be deeply missed by his cherished grandchildren, Skarlytt and Sebastian Winegar-Tontegode. He is predeceased by his parents, Winnifred and W. Ray Winegar, his brother John, and his sister Ann.

Bob was loved by his brothers-in-law David Cunningham, Greg Koehn, Murray Shantz, Stan Shapiro, Herb Quickfall (D), and David Boettger Jr. (D), and by his sisters-in-law June Cunningham, Edith Shantz, Bonnie Koehn (D), and Barbara Quickfall (D). He was an inspiration to many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, schoolmates, and friends.

By example, he encouraged countless people to take up cross-country skiing, triathlons, marathons, skating, biking, and hockey. His love of the outdoors was reflected in his beloved “Little Piece of Heaven” property.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

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In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bethell House in Inglewood or to Westminster United Church Roof Fund in Orangeville. E- Transfer to wucorangevilleroof@gmail.com

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ADVERTISING **LOCALLY** WORKS!

New healing centre aims to build community and support among women practitioners

BY JOSHUA DRAKES

A new healing centre is set to open in Orangeville on April 1, with a focus on collaboration, autonomy and personal transformation.

The River Healing Centre, founded by co-owners Carley Johnson and Dawn Rebel, is designed as a collective space where women practitioners can come together to offer services, share resources, and reduce the pressures of running independent businesses.

The model allows practitioners to work in a shared space through a membership-style system, helping eliminate the overhead costs typically associated with solo operations. Many of the current mem-

bers are graduates of Johnson’s year-long healer mentorship program.

Johnson said that the goal is empowerment and mutual support.

“We want to bring women together,” she said. “We want to bring women together to give them permission to be who they are. We want to bring healers together. Because having a healing business is really difficult by yourself.”

Currently, the centre includes eight practitioners, with more in the onboarding process. Offerings range from yoga and Reiki to education, spellwork and, eventually, psychotherapy and other wellness-aligned services.

Programming will follow a dynamic, rotating schedule rather than a fixed cal-

endar, with the intent of offering new and engaging experiences each month.

“Our schedule starts April 1, and what we’re looking for is having the schedule look different every month,” Johnson said. “We want it to be dynamic, and we want it to be creative. So when the public looks at our calendar, they find something that pulls at them.”

“Our goal is to be able to offer a whole bunch of different offerings, so that it hits the hearts of everyone, and then everyone starts to remember who they are through the things that are offered here,” said Johnson.

At the core of the centre is a specific philosophy of healing, one that emphasizes awareness and gradual change rather

than quick fixes.

“Our main goal is transformation, but transformation in the way that feels right for you,” she said. “The first step to healing is awareness. What is this belief? Why is this here? The only way to change those beliefs is to change behaviour. “

“Healing is like a rebuilding or a refining of skills that you have to fit more of who you are. Healing happens in layers; it’s not overnight, and that’s what we help with.”

This approach encourages individuals to recognize patterns such as perfectionism or emotional numbing, and to experiment with small, manageable behavioural changes over time. Emotions are framed as experiences to be acknowledged rather than suppressed.

The approach will seek to challenge societal norms that encourage the suppression of feelings.

“We live in a society that wants us to bury our problems, not address them,” Johnson said. “Especially not showing anybody. When you start to actually feel what’s going on inside of you, then the healing can truly begin.”

Johnson and Rebel hope the Centre will have a broader impact on the community, supporting improved mental wellness in Orangeville and beyond.

“If we can create goodness here, we can help build that through the community,” Johnson said. “Everybody who leaves this place feels that they’re operating in a higher frequency, because then when they go into the community, operating from a higher frequency, it ripples outward. That’s our goal.”

As the River Healing Centre prepares to open its doors, its founders are aiming to create more than just a shared workspace – they are working to establish a supportive environment where both practitioners and clients can grow, connect and explore healing in a way that feels personal and sustainable.

To learn more, go to The River Healing Center’s website at www.theriverhealing-center.ca.

Province opening HOV lanes to more drivers on provincial highways

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Ontario government is proposing a regulatory amendment to the Highway Traffic Act that would allow single-occupant vehicles to use High Occupancy Vehicle lanes during off-peak hours.

The idea is to better use existing highway infrastructure to reduce gridlock and keep drivers moving on provincial highways.

Ministry of Transportation modelling shows the change would improve travel times for all users, with average speeds increasing in both HOV and general-purpose lanes across major highways during off-peak hours.

If implemented, this change would take place before the end of 2026, following a period of public consultation.

“Gridlock is costing our economy bil-

ions of dollars every year and robbing Ontario drivers of valuable time and quality of life,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “By allowing single-occupant vehicles to use HOV lanes during off-peak hours, we would help keep drivers moving across the province, so they can spend less time in traffic and more time with their families and friends.”

HOV lanes are currently restricted to vehicles with two or more occupants, buses, licensed taxis, green-plate vehicles, airport limousines, motorcycles, and emergency vehicles.

The government is exploring regulatory changes to allow single-occupant vehicles to drive on all existing, planned, and future HOV lanes during off-peak hours.

Existing HOV lane rules would apply

outside of off-peak hours.

These times will not include the busiest weekday morning or evening commute periods.

Ontario currently has 237 kilometres of HOV lanes, with plans underway to add another 146 kilometres to the network.

Single-occupant vehicles remain the dominant mode of transportation on Ontario highways, representing 72 per cent of vehicles on provincial roadways in 2022.

Single-occupant vehicles with High-Occupancy Toll permits can pay to access HOV lanes on sections of the Queen Elizabeth Way, Highway 403, and Highway 410.

Commercial motor vehicles longer than 6.5 metres would remain restricted from using HOV lanes under the proposed changes.



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“Nourishing our Neighbours, Helping Caledon Flourish”

by Kim D’Eri, Manager, Food Bank



Did you know the first formally recognized food bank - St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance - was founded in Arizona in 1967, while the first Canadian food bank was developed in Edmonton in 1981?

What began with soup kitchens and food sharing initiatives as temporary solutions to crisis situations has become a network of food support in communities around the world as the costs of living increase.

As we mark Nutrition Month in March, the theme ‘**Nourish to Flourish**’ reminds us that access to food is about more than just filling plates. Nutritious foods help contribute to overall well-being and have the power to connect us socially and culturally.

At Caledon Community Services’ (CCS) Exchange, nourishing our community means ensuring our neighbours have access to fresh, quality foods when they’re needed most.

CCS’ Exchange serves as our town’s only full-service food bank, offering a hand-up in challenging times. And for our neighbours who have transportation challenges, we offer a Mobile Food Pantry that can deliver, removing a barrier to food access for some.

The need for support has never been greater. In 2024-2025, our food bank visits reached a historic record high, reflecting the need for this service in our community.*

“I don’t know where my family would be without this,” says Anna, a single mom of two. “You have helped me a lot in a time of need.”

There are so many instances capturing the generosity of Caledon, one that we recall from 2020, a single photo of ‘empty shelves’ on Facebook, resulted in receiving more donations in a six-hour period than had been received in the six days prior. We’re so grateful that our community cares in such a big way.

So how can you help? Food donations to the Exchange (55 Healey Rd., Bolton) and financial donations at ccs4u.org/donate both change lives. You could grow a row, host a food drive or add a few items to your grocery list. To learn more, visit ccs4u.org or call 905-584-2300 ext. 202 and ask about the most needed fresh food donations.

Let’s celebrate the progress we’ve made and the work still to be done to ensure that no one in Caledon has to make the impossible choice between eating a nutritious meal or paying rent.

Together we can ensure our neighbours have the nutrition they need to flourish right here in Caledon.

*Data source: Caledon Community Services’ (CCS) 2024-2025 Impact Report

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.

Cathy Perennec McLean, Director, Programs and Operations, Caledon Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext. 220 or cmclean@ccs4u.org

This column is provided free of charge by the Caledon Citizen.

COMMUNITY events

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

Monthly Dinner – Friday, March 27, 2026

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

Lunch & Learn - Thursday, April 2, 2026.

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

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Bolton Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Time: 3:00 pm
Place: 8 Nancy Street, Bolton ON L7E 1C7
Offerings and donations are accepted in aid of the church building fund at www.adventistgiving.org
Refreshments are provided after the service
For more information call: 905-280-4851 or 647-280-4851

Friday April 10, 2026 Free Community Event

Let’s Talk ... Otra Fe – Helping in El Salvador
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6 pm Free Dinner
7 pm Guest Speaker Brenda Patterson
Followed by discussion
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Lunch & Bid Euchre Tournament – Sat. April 11, 2026

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

Takeout available

Income Tax clinic - Saturday, April 11, 2026

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

Albion Bolton Historical Society - Monday, April 13, for a 7:30 PM start, at Rotary Place, 7 Rotarian Way, Bolton, Multi-purpose Room 2. NOTE: NEW MEETING LOCATION.

Jules Maule-finch will present The History of the Albion and Bolton Libraries. Members & Guests are asked to bring any library memorabilia to share with the group. Guests \$5.00. Questions: nhillerphoto@bell.net or 905-584-2801 visit us at boltonhistory.com

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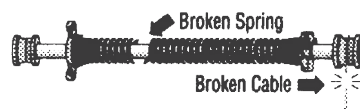
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THIS NEWSPAPER!

Province to permit “bring-your-own” alcoholic beverages at municipally approved public events

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The Ontario government is expanding “bring-your-own” event permits for municipally-designated cultural or community outdoor public events, including farmers’ markets, movie screenings, art exhibits and neighbourhood festivals.

The expanded permit will allow attendees of these events to bring their own alcohol for consumption in designated areas.

It’s important to note that the permitting expansion does not mean patrons of any event can bring their own alcoholic beverages from home. This permit is only eligible in municipalities that approve it and at events where the organizer applies for it.

The province says this will help support local tourism and drive economic growth.

“Starting this spring, Ontario is giving communities more flexibility to safely and responsibly enjoy cultural and outdoor events,” said Attorney General Doug Downey. “The ‘bring-your-own’ event permits will help save attendees money, lower overhead costs for event organizers and contribute to local economies.”

Municipalities will be required to pass a bylaw authorizing the use of alcohol in public if they do not already have one in place. A municipality must establish a local process to determine whether an event qualifies as a community or cultural event and is therefore eligible for the “bring-your-own” permit.

Beginning April 30 of this year, event organizers in participating municipalities will be able to apply for bring-your-own permits through the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

“Our government is always working to find new ways to empower local communities, boost economic activity and increase tourism,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “By giving Ontario municipalities the choice to make use of this new initiative, our government is directly contributing to their economic well-being while ensuring adults can continue to safely and responsibly enjoy their favourite products.”

The “bring-your-own” permit change will be enabled by an amendment to a regulation under the Liquor Licence and Con-

trol Act, giving community and cultural organizations greater flexibility ahead of the spring and summer event season.

Previously, only organizers of live sporting events could obtain this type of permit, typically used for tailgating.

Only individuals 19 years of age and older will be allowed to bring alcohol to

events holding a “bring-your-own” event permit.

The province will continue to work closely with the AGCO to uphold existing rigorous standards for licensing, regulation and social responsibility, ensuring events are safe and reflect community priorities.

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