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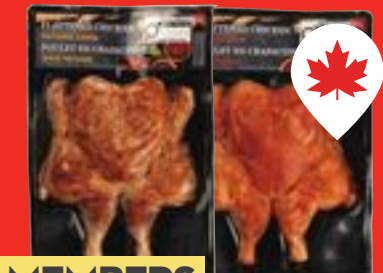
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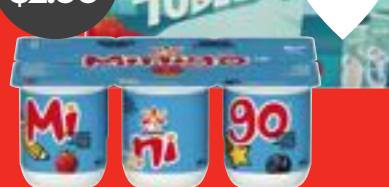
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Sebastian Belerique, 5 and his mother, Kate Belerique, are pictured earlier this week on the hunt for garbage during their weekly walk at Dougall Avenue and Kennedy Road, where they begin their collection journey. PHOTO BY KATHRYN FRASER

## Caledon kid wants to make Earth Day everyday for the community

BY KATHRYN FRASER  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

For some, picking up trash can seem like a chore, especially when the garbage does not belong to you.

However, one local Caledon child is working towards making Earth Day not just a single day in the year, but every day in his neighbourhood.

Five-year-old Sebastian Belerique was riding

his scooter on the sidewalk in his neighbourhood on July 15 when he noticed all the garbage that was everywhere. When Belerique discovered the litter, he turned to his mother and said, "That is not kind to Mother Earth", and his mother suggested that they get a garbage bag and pick up the trash.

When asked if he would like to pick up the trash, Belerique began discussing how this was something that he had previously done at school with his classmates on Earth Day. He then began to list all the equipment that the

school had given him and decided that if no one else was going to clean up, then he would be the one to do it.

"Sebastian has always cared about Mother Earth and is taught a lot about taking care of the community as we are very involved and it's important that we have to look out for each other," says Kate Belerique, Sebastian's mom.

So then began Belerique's mission for a cleaner neighbourhood.

Continued on Page 8

## Junor appointed to national committee on anti-Black racism

BY KATHRYN FRASER  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon's very own Kevin Junor is among eight Canadians appointed to the Federal Government's External Ministerial Advisory Committee on Anti-Black Racism.

The creation of this new committee is in response to the National Apology Advisory Committee report that provided recommendations on how the Government of Canada could apologize to the descendants of the No.2 Construction Battalion in a meaningful way.

Continued on Page 3



(From Left) Rear Admiral Jacques P. Oliver, The Hon. David J. McGuinty, Minister of National Defence, and Kevin Junor. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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# Baker takes technique to a whole new level on Parisian baking trip

BY KATHRYN FRASER  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

While some may try to improve their skills by researching online, others go to the next level and travel to a different country.

This is what 21-year-old Caledon local Stefano Galati has done to evolve his baking skills and bring new techniques to his baking process.

What started as a hobby two years ago has now not only become a job for Galati but has also given him a possible glimpse of opportunities for the future.

Galati currently works at Rock Garden Farms in Caledon and is the first ever baker that the store has had.

Starting off by creating loaves at home to slowly making them in the store after a while, Galati decided that it was time to learn more.

Traveling all the way to Paris, France, Galati attended classes at Ferrandi where he learned new techniques and even new pastries to try out.

“I was looking at going somewhere and learning more. It just happened to be a course that I found through research and saw other people do it,” says Galati. “It fit what I wanted to learn in the same timeline, and so I decided it would be a good experience and I’ll learn a lot.”

The duration of his stay lasted about three-and-a-half months, and Galati spent most of his time learning in the kitchen.

“It was a lot; we were in the kitchen every day. We’d go in and make all these different recipes, roughly two or three a day, and then the teacher would explain as we go, and we take notes, and it was very hands-on.”

Galati was introduced to a hands-on experience in technique, creation, and the importance of ingredients.

“We learned all the basics of baking bread and pastries, and we learned about how to make all these different kinds of bread from different regions of France, some international bread, then we also learned a little bit about why certain ingredients affect the dough” says Galati.

Now that he is back from his journey, Galati is taking his experience and evolving his baking back home.

“Techniques like the process of fermentation of the dough, knowing when the dough is ready for mixing and when the dough is ready after being mixed, and baguette shaping to get the best product I could, are areas that have increased since taking this class,” he says.

Reflecting, Galati says he is appreciative of his journey and how it has impacted his baking and is now looking to the future for what future items he will be able to make.

“I’m appreciative of the experience I have had. Being around others that are passionate about making bread it was nice for me to see, and I will continue to strengthen my skills and try new pastries and breads in the future.”



STEFANO GALATI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Headwaters closes fiscal year with \$1.6-million surplus as expansion plans move forward

BY SAM ODROWSKI

Headwaters Health Care Centre ended the 2025-26 fiscal year with a \$1.6-million surplus, after opening its first MRI suite and identifying nearly \$5 million in cumulative budget savings over two years, according to the hospital’s newly released annual report.

Revenue rose \$7.2 million to \$120.3 million, driven largely by increased funding and higher inpatient revenue, while expenses climbed \$5.4 million to \$118.7 million

amid rising compensation costs, inflation and growing demand for care, the report states.

Paula Brown, communications specialist for Headwaters Health Care Centre, said the surplus was largely due to one-time funding and careful financial management.

“Overall, the year-end surplus was largely the result of one-time and unanticipated funding received, combined with careful financial management,” she said.

The hospital also identified significant savings over the past two years, including \$2.5

million earmarked for the upcoming fiscal year.

Brown said the savings didn’t come at the expense of care.

“Over the past two years, Headwaters identified approximately \$5 million in savings through benchmarking, operational efficiencies, and careful supply and budget management,” she said.

“Throughout this work, patient care remained our top priority. We continued to meet key performance targets, including all surgical targets, and strong emergency department performance, demonstrating that financial improvements were achieved while maintaining quality care and access for patients.”

Headwaters’ fiscal discipline will support its next major infrastructure project, the expansion and renovation of the Emergency Department. This will take place alongside upgrades to the hospital’s diagnostic imaging and laboratory.

The report identifies the project as a major priority heading into 2026-27, with Phase II set to move into detailed design and pre-construction. A firm timeline, however, is not yet available.

“At this stage, we are unable to confirm specific timelines as the project continues to move through the Ministry of Health approval process,” Brown said. “We are working closely with the ministry to advance the project and will share updates as key milestones are reached.”

Once the project moves forward, Brown said residents can expect changes in both mental health and trauma care.

“Some of the intended benefits of the expansion include a dedicated space for mental health and enhanced trauma care areas,” she said. “The project is also being designed to support more efficient patient flow, helping

patients access care more quickly while improving the overall care experience.”

That mental health space would be the hospital’s first dedicated area designed to support patients experiencing a mental health crisis.

“This new space will provide a calmer, more private setting within the main Emergency Department,” Brown said.

The hospital’s other major milestone this year was the October 2025 opening of the Morningview Foundation MRI Suite, Dufferin-Caledon’s first MRI service, built with capacity for up to 8,000 scans annually and funded through the Headwaters Health Care Foundation’s Smart Headwaters campaign.

Uptake has been steady since the doors opened.

“Since launch, we have completed 5,100 MRI scans and are on track to reach 6,000 in the first year,” Brown said. “Prior to this service, these patients would have been referred to hospitals outside our catchment area for MRI care.”

The Smart Headwaters campaign wrapped up in June of last year after surpassing its original \$18-million fundraising goal, which helped fund the MRI suite, advanced diagnostic technology and clinical education initiatives.

For the year ending March 31, 2026, Headwaters reported 34,722 Emergency Department visits, 22,661 outpatient visits, 5,496 day surgeries, 984 inpatient surgeries, and 1,139 babies delivered. The hospital also conducted 424,569 lab tests and 74,561 diagnostic imaging tests.

Headwaters has 86 beds, 849 staff, 193 physicians and midwives, and 248 volunteers.

Looking ahead, Headwaters said it will continue to focus on expanding local access to care, advancing planned infrastructure projects, and maintaining financial stability.

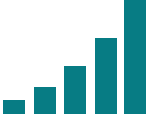
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# Junor appointed to national committee on anti-Black racism in Canadian military



Bolton’s Kevin Junor received the Order of Ontario from The Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, last year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Continued from FRONT

Junor first joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1980 through their summer program and continued to serve Queen, King, Country and Community until 2023 when he retired after over 40 years of service.

“As a member of the Canadian Armed Forces that experienced racism, spoke about racism, identified systemic barriers while in uniform, the Government of Canada has now identified me as an individual that can come back after retirement – and providing advice to them with regards to addressing these issues,” says Junor.

Towards the end of June, Junor received a call from the Committee that he had been recommended by the Minister’s office and was offered the opportunity to become a part of the group.

Junor accepted the position and traveled to Pictou, NS, where he and eight other members were formally appointed.

In joining this Committee, Junor will have the opportunity to advise and provide strategies to promote change in the organization surrounding Anti-Black Racism.

“There are a number of reports that’ve been written, indicating racism to different communities within the military,” says Junor. “I’m at the point now where I’m able to be appointed to go back into that institution, to assist them in providing strategic

advice regarding systemic barriers, in particular, systemic barriers that are impacting members of the black community.”

Now that it has been a few weeks since the appointment, Junor and the rest of the committee are starting to begin work on an action plan.

“Right now, there are a number of things that we are working on as a united team to develop a strategic action plan for the next two years and identify metrics to bring to the general public and the Minister” says Junor.

Implementing these changes into the chain of

command is another area that Junor says the Committee plans to target.

“It’s important that the chain of command accept this Committee as being vital to change in some of the challenges that they face in regard to Anti-Black racism and to educate the chain of command to be able to implement best practices, as it relates to anti-black racism, and to know that leadership is about knowing your followers and promoting their welfare,” says Junor.

Even though this is only the beginning for the Committee, Junor says he is hopeful that this group will be able to bring change to the Canadian Armed Forces in both the long term and the short term.

“Short term success for me is the acceptance of this Committee, and it’s not just to say that the committee exists, but to make sure that the organization really accepts the Committee as being vital to the transformation of the committee in addressing anti-black racism within the forces. In the long term, it will be to see policies, practices, and behaviours being changed, and it’s not just to have the policy change, but to actually see that people are held accountable for their behaviour that is not aligned with the policies. practices, and the programs that are accepted. And to see that...everyone in the military, or Department of National Defence, are accepted for who they are and what they bring to the table, and they’re not segregated because of the colour of their skin.”

### KIN BOOST CASSIE’S PLACE

Cassie’s Place received a boost courtesy of the Bolton Kin. Cassie’s Place is an inclusive day program and community hub serving adults with developmental disabilities in the Caledon and Bolton area. They have also been an active participant in the annual Bolton Kin Santa Claus Parade. Bolton Kin donated \$2,000 to this out-standing program. Pictured with Kin Carla, Kin Judy, Kin Lori, Kin Liane and LM Robert are Joe Sassine, Jessica Sassine, Nikki Miloni and Michelle Milani from Cas-sie’s Place.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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### SERIOUS COLLISION INVESTIGATION

Members of the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are requesting the public’s assistance as they investigate a serious motor vehicle collision involving a passenger vehicle and a pedestrian in the Town of Bolton.

“On July 17, 2026, at approximately 2:15 p.m., emergency crews responded to the area of Ellwood Drive and Queen Street South in the Town of Bolton for a serious collision involving a passenger vehicle and a pedestrian,” say Police. “Members of the OPP Technical Collision Investigation (TCI) unit attended the scene to assist with the investigation.”

The Caledon OPP is appealing to anyone who witnessed the collision or was in the area at the time to come forward. Investigators are also seeking dashcam or surveillance footage from the area that may assist with the investigation.

Anyone with information or video footage is asked to contact the Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit a tip online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

If you witnessed the collision and require support, Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services is available at 905-951-3838.

### OPP REMIND RESIDENTS TO BUCKLE UP AFTER PREVENTABLE FATALITIES

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding motorists that wearing a seat belt remains one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent death and serious injury in a collision.

“From January 1, to June 30, 2026, 32 people lost their lives on OPP patrolled roads where the lack of seat belt use or proper child restraint was a contributing factor,” say Police. “These fatalities serve as a tragic reminder that failing to wear a seat belt can have irreversible consequences.”

“Despite ongoing awareness campaigns and enforcement efforts, some drivers and passengers continue to take unnecessary risks by not buckling up. Seat belts are designed to keep vehicle occupants securely positioned during a collision, significantly reducing the likelihood of being ejected from the vehicle or sustaining fatal injuries.

For children, proper restraint use is especially important. Child car seats and booster seats are designed to provide the protection young passengers need at each stage of development and can significantly reduce the risk of serious injury or death in a collision. Parents and caregivers have the responsibility to ensure child restraints

are appropriate for the child’s age, height and weight, correctly installed, and used on every trip.”

The OPP will continue to educate motorists and enforce Ontario’s seat belt laws throughout the year. Drivers can expect officers to remain vigilant in identifying seat belt violations as part of ongoing efforts to reduce fatalities and keep Ontario’s roads safe.

### IMPAIRED CHARGES

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have charged four individuals with impaired driving-related offences as a result of traffic complaints, R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) programs, and proactive traffic enforcement.

“On July 15, 2026, at approximately 11:42 a.m., officers responded to a traffic complaint regarding a possible impaired driver in the area of Highway 10 and Fourth Avenue in the Town of Orangeville,” say Police. “A short time later, officers located the vehicle at a fast-food restaurant on Broadway and spoke with the driver. During the interaction, officers observed signs of impairment, and an impaired driving investigation was initiated.”

As a result of the investigation, Nathan Bowman, 51, of Stouffville, has been charged with:

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

The charges have not been proven.

“On July 18, 2026, at approximately 5:56 p.m., officers responded to a traffic complaint regarding a possible impaired driver in the area of Airport Road in the Township of Mulmur. Officers located the vehicle a short time later and conducted a traffic stop. During the interaction, officers observed signs of impairment, and an impaired driving investigation was initiated.”

As a result of the investigation, Abhineet Dhillon, 27, of Mississauga, has been charged with:

- Operation while impaired – alcohol;
- Failure or refusal to comply with a demand;
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor.

The charges have not been proven.

“On July 19, 2026, at approximately 3:06 a.m., officers were on patrol in the area of Barnett Drive in the Town of Shelburne when they observed a vehicle that drew their attention and conducted a traffic stop.

“During the interaction with the driver, officers observed signs of impairment, and an impaired driving investigation was initiated.”

As a result of the investigation, Samantha Bacchus, 47, of Dundalk, has been charged with:

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

The charge has not been proven.

“On July 19, 2026, at approximately 11:50 p.m., officers were conducting a R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check in the area of Townline and Dawson Road in the Town of Orangeville. A vehicle entered the R.I.D.E. checkpoint and, following a brief conversation with the driver, officers initiated an impaired driving investigation.”

As a result of the investigation, Debra Mugridge, 24, of Orangeville, has been charged with:

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

The charge has not been proven.

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

In addition, the accused individuals’ driver’s licences were suspended, and the vehicles involved were impounded.

The Dufferin OPP reminds motorists that impaired driving remains one of the leading causes of preventable deaths on Ontario roads. If you plan to consume alcohol or drugs, plan ahead. Arrange for a designated driver, call a taxi or rideshare service, use public transit, or stay overnight.

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

Members of the Dufferin OPP remain committed to public safety through proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities.

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.

Tuesday September 15, 2026 at 6 pm

Free Bingo Night

Join us for Bingo, prizes, pizza, and fun!

Bolton United Church

8 Nancy Street, Bolton, L7E 1C7

Phone: 905-857-2615

e-mail office@boltonunitedchurch.com

www.boltonunitedchurch.com

Mom & Babes Yoga Fitness

Starting on September 14, 2026 at 11 am – free program

See website for more information

Bolton United Church

8 Nancy Street, Bolton, L7E 1C7

Phone: 905-857-2615

e-mail: office@boltonunitedchurch.com

www.boltonunitedchurch.com

REMEMBER TO SHOP LOCAL!

The Citizen CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Listen to

5. Presents

10. A type of guitar

14. Actor Idris

15. A citizen of Iran

16. Pretentiously artistic

17. Harness

18. Diamond weight measurement

19. “Better Call \_\_”

20. Fervent support

22. Male cat

23. Jewish spiritual leader

24. Disposed to venture or take risks

27. A way to nail

30. Cool!

31. Women’s \_\_ movement

32. “Losing My Religion” rockers

35. Step-shaped recess

37. A princess can detect it

38. Tractor-trailer

39. Leslie and Leon are two

40. Color at the end of the spectrum

41. Lines where fabrics are sewn

42. Dodgers great

43. Floor covering

44. Traveled aimlessly

45. Rocker Stewart

46. Body art

47. Congressman (abbr.)

48. No seats available

49. Breaks apart

52. Hand gesture

55. Ballplayer’s tool

56. Sword

60. Baseball team

61. Upper bract of floret of grass

63. Italian Seaport

64. Mars crater

65. Tube on a shoelace

66. U. of Miami mascot

67. South American nation

68. Video game series

69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title

2. Ancient Greek personification of mercy

3. Jewish calendar month

4. Family of long-legged frogs

5. Photo

6. Delivered a speech

7. Lute used in Indian music

8. Decorated

9. Cease to stand

10. The bottom layer

11. Member of a Semitic people

12. Part of a ticket

13. Defunct monetary unit

21. Challenges

23. Body part

25. Tell on

26. By way of

27. Shady green alcove

28. Egyptian city

29. \_\_ and flowed

32. Widens a hole

33. Eurasian wheat

34. Act incorrectly

36. “Be back later”

37. Al Bundy’s wife

38. Ocean

40. Large root eaten as a vegetable

41. Units of subjective loudness

43. Music genre

44. A way to drench

46. Popular hot beverage

47. Silk-like cotton fabric

49. Rumanian city

50. Come back

51. Vaccine developer

52. Canadian law enforcers

53. Wings

54. Observational comedian Bill

57. Small fry

58. \_\_ Clapton, musician

59. Take a chance

61. Semi-liquid food for babies

62. Consumed food

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



# ARTS & CULTURE

## Caledon Public Library welcomes fresh and returning fun for August



From day camps to karaoke nights to foam parties, the Caledon Public Library is a great place to make connections and try new activities. **CPL PHOTO**

**BY KATHRYN FRASER**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The end of July is quickly approaching making way for the month of August, and the Caledon Public Library has a new jam-packed roster of activities for all to attend. From day camps to karaoke nights to foam parties, the Caledon Public Library is a great place to make connections and try new activities. Children, teens, adults, and seniors are welcome and will be able to find their own individual niche activities. Jill Jambor Communications and Cultural

Development Manager for the Caledon Public Library, has offered a taste of what the community can expect to be available starting next month. “Caledon Public Library offers great public spaces where everyone in the community can come and spend time out of the heat, relax, study, work, or meet up with friends,” says Jambor. The library’s reoccurring Teen Cafe is back in full swing for a Create Your Own Tote Bag or Water Bottle event on August 17 at the Caledon East Branch from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Spots are still open but filling quickly. To register, visit the Caledon Public Library website at [caledon.library.on.ca](http://caledon.library.on.ca).

This year, the Caledon Public Library has their own day camp called Makerspace Camp: Maker Quest for children ages nine to 12 interested in creating hands on projects such as using vinyl and 3D printing. Maker Quest has spots available for the week of August 10 to 14 and will run from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Interested individuals can register on the Town of Caledon’s website. The weekly Summer Kids Club will also continue to run during the month of August where participants can drop in and enjoy games, creative challenges, and crafts. Summer Kids Club can be found at the following branches in the area with different schedules

- packed with lots of summer fun.
- Alton - Thursdays 10:30 AM
  - Bolton - Tuesdays 2:00 PM
  - Caledon East - Wednesdays 2:00 PM
  - Caledon Village - Fridays 10:30 AM
  - Inglewood - Wednesdays 10:30 AM
  - Southfields - Thursdays 2:00 PM

The Caledon Village Branch will also host their biannual Foam Party Fun Thursday, August 13 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. The event is free to attend; however, interested participants must register online to attend. A photo fundraiser will be taking place on August 28 and August 29. Members of the public are invited to register to have professional portraits taken. Packages start at \$50 for three digital photos, and all proceeds go towards supporting library programs and services.

Have an interest in writing? Join the drop in Writer’s Ink program for adults offered on August 5 and August 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 and come share your creative writing and receive support from other writers in a non-judgmental space. Good Vibes Karaoke: A program for adults with disabilities will also be back on August 21 from 5pm to 7pm at the Albion Bolton Branch. Get ready for a feel-good night with lots of singing, laughter, and cheers. All are welcome to attend the free program, and more information can be found online. For those interested in finding a space to read or spend time, the library has everything needed to keep entertained. Books, audiobooks, free music and movie streaming, launch pad tablets, instruments, puzzles and many more resources can be borrowed for any that are interested. *To find out more information or to register for these programs, visit [caledon.library.on.ca](http://caledon.library.on.ca) for more.*



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BROCK WEIR  
BROCK'S BANTER

# A certain orange glow

Certain days in this office run at a breakneck pace.

Deadlines have to be met, last-minute changes and details need to be accommodated.

Then, once those proverbial and literal Ts are crossed and Is are dotted, it's a matter of trying to suss out anything else that might need adjustment before the fine details are set in the pulp-and-paper equivalent of stone.

When the task is done, there's a feeling of relief but the pace of the day can often wreak havoc on the internal clock, sometimes making it a bit difficult to wind down in the evening and restore one's personal bandwidth.

One way I've found to beat these odds is to incorporate as much outdoor time as I can into the day. It can be as simple as cracking the window next to your desk, going for a walk in nature when you can steal a bit of time away, or, even going for an immersive experience with a make-shift outdoor "office."

Depending on the space and materials you have, this can sometimes be a difficult task, but it can be done with a laptop and some determination.

I started last week with two work-from-home days getting sun, fresh air, and stuff done and was so looking forward to a third consecutive day of doing just that on Wednesday. But, when I woke up that morning, all I could see was a disconcerting orange glow pouring through my windows, a hue that appeared nothing short of apocalyptic before going outside to see the full panorama.

So much for that, I thought, as I brushed off a change of plan – a decidedly micro-inconvenience compared to those displaced or otherwise impacted by the fires in Northern Ontario – and considered next steps.

"Well, of course they're not going to like it," I thought to myself as reports tracked the ominous clouds of smoke as State-bound.

It was inevitable.

The last time smoke of that magnitude wafted in the direction of the United States' Eastern Seaboard, we certainly got a lot of feedback from our neighbours to the south, little of it actually constructive, particularly suggestions from the top that we hit our forests with really heavy-duty, super-duper vacuum cleaners and larger-than-life Dustbusters to better manage forest floors.

Of course, for an individual whose unpredictability is about as predictable as Toronto hockey fans getting the gut feeling that this season, every season, is the one that will finally bring "the Cup" home, the reaction from the White House was swift and pretty much as expected.

"President Donald Trump on Friday pledged to hold Canada responsible for costs associated with unhealthy air quality in the U.S. due to spreading smoke from the Canadian wildfires," reported NBC News over the weekend.

"The cost is incalculable!" the president wrote in a post on Truth Social. "This is Willful Negligence, and becoming a yearly occurrence, costing the United States Billions of Dollars, which cost of this pollution must of necessity be added to the TARIFFS Canada is currently paying."

"In his post, Trump added that he would call Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney 'to find out what they are going to do about it.'

"We are holding Canada responsible for the fact that they are not properly maintaining their Forests, and Brush therein, and the United States is being unnecessarily invaded by filthy, polluted, and unhealthy air, the quality of which is dangerous, and totally unacceptable," Trump wrote."

I'm not sure why anyone would be surprised by this type of reaction.

In a time where Trump has found support in his base waning as he tries to find a way out of

what seems like a war with no exit ramp, not to mention ongoing affordability crises on both sides of the border, and on and on it goes, it's understandable he'd dip back into the "TARIFF" well in an attempt to demonstrate a bit more clout.

Of course, it means nothing that when wildfires ravage parts of the United States – the Palisades Fires in California last year, to pick just one example – we don't limit our contributions to mere expressions of sympathy, nor do we complain about its impact on travel plans. No, we send support – practical and moral.

It also means nothing that the current, beleaguered deal we have with the United States – CUSMA – was one Trump negotiated himself during his first administration.

It means nothing that Canada has had to make concessions to the United States over the Gordie Howe Bridge, no matter the fact we paid for it ourselves.

At the end of the day, it really means nothing as it seems any excuse will do to try and get Canada over a barrel and no matter what we do, the chorus will be the same whine: "Big, bad Canada is unfairly treating the country next door."

"This is the latest in a series of unilateral U.S. trade actions that began with the U.S. imposing a series of tariffs in direct violation of CUSMA, the free trade agreement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico," said Prime Minister Mark Carney in a statement on Monday. "These include tariffs on the Canadian auto sector, in violation of CUSMA. Canada, as is its right, has merely matched those measures.

"More broadly, in response to these measures and threats to Canadian sovereignty, provinces, territories, and Canadians from coast to coast to coast have stood together, taking the necessary actions to support our economy and defend our workers, farmers, businesses, and families.

"Recognising that the U.S. has been transforming all of its trade relationships, including those covered under CUSMA, over the past 18 months, Canada has made a series of detailed and comprehensive proposals to resolve this dispute and to modernise CUSMA. We stand ready to intensify those discussions in the coming weeks.

"Canada believes in the benefits of free and fair trade, as evidenced by our new government signing more than 20 new economic and security partnerships. This trade dispute has raised costs for families, particularly in the U.S. Canada stands ready to engage intensively to address outstanding issues with the U.S. to the mutual benefit of our citizens. In all circumstances, Canada will work relentlessly and take any measures necessary to build our strength at home and to support Canadian workers, farmers, businesses, and families."

As negotiations continue on new trade deals between our two countries, with the cast of characters currently at the helm, can we expect any talks to be carried out in good faith?

If it's a matter of getting Bourbon back on our shelves, supply management in our dairy industry will become another artificial speedbump on the road to resolution. If that gets settled after the U.S. Government milks it for all its worth, hindrances to a good trade deal will go well beyond products crossing the border, even to cornerstones of our democracy being rebranded as trade barriers.

And, if more smoke blows their way, we'll all be back at the drawing board.

My sympathies to our trade negotiators at this difficult time. If it's leaving us bystanders feeling threadbare and drained, one can only imagine how they feel – and, I suspect, it will take more than a walk in the woods to feel refreshed and restored.



## Listening to the "silence," my old friend



As I sat enjoying my morning coffee I closed my eyes and let the sun kiss me on my cheeks.

I closed my eyes and was struck by the unusual quiet, the silence of it all. No wind to rustle the leaves, no animal sounds, no whir of residential a/c units.

It was calming, peaceful.

It wasn't, as Simon and Garfunkel noted, a disconnect with humanity but rather an intentional inner connect and pensiveness.

The sound of a mourning dove broke the silence and in the distance a lawn mower started up.

Instead, the "Sound of Silence," this was the sound of summer.

Despite living in a Bolton subdivision, we back onto a forested property, allowing nature to not only coexist but bolster our mood and appreciation.

Over the back fence, mighty trees tower and fall, and the forest floor is overrun by intrusive plants. That's what nature does when left its on. It grows, moves, climbs and weaves.

Wayne Dyer once observed that everything that's created comes out of silence.

"Your thoughts emerge from the nothingness of silence. Your words come out of this void. Your very essence emerged from emptiness. All creativity requires some stillness."

According to Muhammad Tuhin (Science News Today), silence is one of the most potent forces in the human experience. It is where emotion brews and the psyche speaks in ways the tongue cannot. Though we live in a world drowning in noise – beeping phones, scrolling feeds, endless talk – we are, at our core, creatures who need silence not just to rest, but to understand, to connect, and even to heal.

Human studies have found that silence activates the brain's default mode network, the same system that lights up during introspection, imagination, and self-awareness. When external noise recedes, internal clarity increases.

In silence, the prefrontal cortex – our seat of decision-making and social reasoning – has room to engage in deeper processing. You're not just "not hearing things." You're feeling more, analyzing more, being more.

One of the most studied psychological uses of silence is meditation. At its core, meditation is not the absence of thought – it is the conscious embrace of silence.

Brain scans of long-term meditators show increased gray matter in areas responsible for emotional regulation, focus, and compassion. The quiet attention cultivated in meditation doesn't just calm the mind—it changes its architecture.

by Mark Pavilons

In many traditions, silence is sacred. It is the space where insight appears, where ego dissolves, where the mind becomes clear enough to see itself.

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross said we should all learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself, and know that everything in life has purpose.

We live in the noisiest era in human history. The average person receives hundreds of notifications, messages, and updates per day. Even in physical solitude, we are rarely mentally alone.

This constant stimulation is not benign. Studies show that too much noise – especially digital noise – can lead to increased stress, decreased concentration, and a weakened ability to tolerate stillness.

It's been said that silence is an integral part of music, the "space" between the notes.

Silence reveals our coping mechanisms, our fears, our fantasies. It shows us whether we feel safe in our own presence.

Psychologists have found that the ability to tolerate silence is directly linked to emotional maturity. Silence also teaches us humility. It reminds us that not everything needs to be said, and not every moment needs to be claimed. It opens the door to curiosity. To wonder. To awe.

In silence, the ego shrinks and the soul expands.

The ultimate silence awaits us all, and for some, it will come sooner than later.

When we close our eyes and drift off, for the very last time, we're likely surrounded by eternal silence. But others disagree.

According to the Science News Today Editorial Team, neuroscientists can now observe the brain's electrical activity as it shuts down, noting that in some cases, bursts of coordinated brain waves appear even in the final moments, almost as if the dying brain briefly lights up before fading into silence. But as precise as this picture is, it does not answer the deeper question. While biology explains how death happens, it cannot say whether consciousness – the subjective experience of being alive – ceases or continues in some other form.

Some philosophers and physicists argue that consciousness may not be reducible to matter. Quantum theories of mind, though controversial, suggest that awareness might be a fundamental property of the universe, woven into the fabric of reality like space and time. If consciousness is not entirely tied to the brain, then death might not extinguish it but transform it.

Perhaps the most provocative evidence in discussions of life after death comes from near-death experiences (NDEs). Across cultures, people who have come close to dying report remarkably similar visions: traveling through tunnels, encountering bright lights, feeling profound peace, or meeting deceased loved ones. These accounts are striking for their consistency and emotional intensity. Many who undergo NDEs return with a transformed perspective on life, convinced that death is not an end but a passage.

Religion offers some reassurance in everlasting life. Just what form that takes is the ultimate mystery.

Only those who have passed know the truth of whether we cease entirely and fade into oblivion, or whether we join particles in the cosmos.

Will this be a noisy or silent transition?  
I will find out, as will we all.

Submit your  
**LETTERS  
TO  
THE  
EDITOR**

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SHERALYN ROMAN  
TALK CALEDON



Why you should care

There is a “thing” we know to be true, even though in conversation, many of us might deny it. That is, that while we “treasure” and “respect” our right to democracy, many of us don’t practice what we preach. We talk about politics politely, using euphemisms to hide our political beliefs in mixed company, or alternatively, we argue so vociferously there is no room for compromise. But what many of us don’t do, and what matters more than anything else, is VOTE.

Here is why you should care about voting, and some of the hot button issues impacting Caledon right now.

Conversations I’ve had recently include: “What’s the difference between a blasting quarry and a regular quarry,” or “Why bother voting? It doesn’t make a difference anyway,” and worse still, “They’re all crooked.” There have also been concerns expressed that some members of the current Council aren’t just being stone-walled at every vote, but excluded regularly from the kinds of conversations that all duly elected Council members (acting on behalf of us voters) should collectively be a part of. Not only does voting matter, but those we vote for must be able to do their jobs! All of these conversations concern me because they could mean any number of things, most of them not good.

Caledon residents, like those in Ward One for example, should know and understand the difference between a blasting quarry and a “regular” pit or quarry because the difference isn’t just about increased truck traffic on the roads, dangerous though that might be, but rather, also has to do with the long term potentially detrimental impacts to our groundwater both here and downstream. A blasting quarry, such as that proposed by CBM Votorantim, is a below the water table proposal that risks contaminating at least 25% of local residents their drinking water and that’s a very conservative estimate. Keep in mind too that once water is contaminated (or a well disappears) it’s almost impossible to reverse course.

Contamination of the Credit River and of a key Brook Trout spawning area is also at risk. The actual hole in the ground will be as deep as the equivalent of an eight-storey building, the kind of lasting damage you can never rehabilitate. So, why should you care? Because we all rely on water, whether we live beside the quarry or downstream. We all travel area roads. The estimated additional 75 trucks per hour (during peak times) will be sharing them with us and we all know that illegal trucking and inadequate training are also hot button issues right now and if you don’t, (and it’s becoming increasingly clear many don’t) you should. It’s not just Ward One either. Groups like the CCRSA, the Forks of the Credit Preservation Group and Democracy Caledon all exist to help bring awareness and attention to issues impacting all Caledon residents. Bolton is a disaster in the making. The Mayfield West community doesn’t even have a park for their children to play in and they’ve been living here for over five years! BUT, ultimately, it’s our responsibility as voters to learn about these issues - to get informed - and then use that information to make the best possible decision during the upcoming municipal election.

For those that say, “Why bother voting?”, there are a myriad of examples we can look to as proof of its importance, not the least of which is the number of Democrats to the south of us who never thought it possible a former TV “reality” show host would be their real-life President.

Closer to home in the last federal election ridings were decided in some cases by fewer than 15 votes (just 12 in one Newfoundland riding, “the closest margin of victory of any riding race in Canada.”) Just down the road from us in Milton, a riding was decided by 21 votes while in Terrebonne, Quebec, after a judicial recount, just one vote separated the candidates, resulting in a Supreme Court decision to annul the results and hold a by-election. So yes, every vote matters and you have the democratic right and the freedom to

vote, as preserved for us through the literal blood of veterans, so why wouldn’t you?

As for the comment, “they’re all crooked anyway,” they are not. I know I do my fair share of griping here. It’s hard not to when Premier Ford shuts down the legislature for 20+ weeks after only sitting for a total of 30 days! Who wouldn’t like a job like that? But it doesn’t mean that everyone in the legislature is crooked. Particularly at the municipal level I don’t think there’s a harder working group (generally speaking) of people who, for the most part, enter into the political fray to help make their own community a better place to live, work and play. It’s a job that involves nights, weekends, hundreds of community events, grand openings and Council meetings that stretch into the wee hours, not to mention calls from irate residents at all hours of the day and night.

Those who step forward conscientiously deserve our praise for even considering the task. But, what I am seeing more and more of lately is a reluctance by well-meaning, hard-working local citizens to step up to serve their community and much of that has to do with the attitudes of those who don’t. Antagonism and outright vitriol on social media, lies and threats both overt and underhanded, intimidation and more, all make this a concerning time to be a politician. Those who do throw their name into the ring must have a very thick skin indeed. It might help if collectively, we applauded their efforts and used our “voice” at the ballot box, instead of on a social media laden small screen. It’s the only way those that are truly hoping to work in the best interests of our community will get the chance to do so. The candidates are out there campaigning. Ask them questions when they knock on your door. Do your research. This is OUR community and only WE can make a difference but WE have to work together to ensure OUR voices are heard. We all live, work and play here and that’s why YOU should care.

MAYOR ANNETTE  
GROVES

MAYOR GROVES’  
COLUMN



Free Caledon Recreation  
memberships for veterans

The Town of Caledon is honouring the service and sacrifice of Canadian Armed Forces veterans by offering free Caledon Recreation memberships to eligible veterans who call our community home.

Supporting the health and well-being of residents is a priority and an important part of a vibrant, connected, and livable Caledon. Building on the success of free recreation memberships for residents aged 65 and older, this new initiative is another way to investing in the community while recognizing those who have served our country.

This program removes barriers to recreation, aims to help veterans stay active, build connections, and enjoy the many health and social benefits of Caledon Recreation.

Eligible veterans will receive a free All Access Annual Membership, providing unlimited access to Town recreation facilities, amenities, and drop-in programs throughout the year.

How to register

Veterans can register in person at any Town recreation centre by presenting proof of veteran status along with proof of Caledon residency (a driver’s licence is preferred).

Registration must be completed in person at any Town recreation centre. Existing members who qualify may request an adjustment or a refund for the unused portion of their current membership.

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# Rhythm and Reason hosts debut Mystical Magical Music Day this Saturday

BY KATHRYN FRASER  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Rhythm and Reason will host its very first event “Mystical Magical Music Day” on July 25, connecting local artists and charities.

The event will take place from 1 – 5 p.m. at 33 Queen Street North Bolton and will have a large variety of activities for all to try out.

Activities such as bracelet making, cookie decorating, face painting, games, live music and even more will be available to those in attendance.

Fifty per cent of proceeds will go to support local artists while the remaining 50 per cent will go to Caledon Community Services, who are partnering with Rhythm and Reason for this event.

Lula Shaw, the founder of Rhythm and Reason, hopes that this is the start of events to help connect local artists and charities together to help support one another.

“I built Rhythm and Reason on the belief that local artists can power local charity,” says Shaw, “Giving artists the platform while giving back is the main thing I want people to really feel and see during this event”.

The cost of the event is \$10 and will cover all the activities, as well as some light refreshments.

A multitude of local artists will perform starting at 1.p.m. before headliner Selena Villa performs her hour-long set between 4 – 5 p.m.

In addition to the performances and activities, there will be a silent auction with many prizes from generous donors that all attendees will have the chance to bid for.

“We have quite a few generous donors that have donated some wonderful prizes like four weeks of private music lessons, gift baskets, ciders and other prizes” says Shaw.

Attendees will also have the chance to win an acoustic guitar, purchase of an entrance ticket will automatically enter guests into a draw for the grand prize which will be announced at 3:30 pm.

Shaw noted how important this event is for her to connect and to have the community come out and see local artists and support the charity.

“I couldn’t be happier and thankful for everybody that’s supporting my vision and this event and the people involved. It’s honestly a dream come true” she says.

Looking to the future, Shaw says she is hopeful to be able to hold more events for Rhythm and Reason to bring together communities, charities and local artists.

More information about the event can be found at [www.rhythmandreason.net/event-list](http://www.rhythmandreason.net/event-list).



Five-year-old Sebastian Belerique, armed with his trusty grabber, donned a mask to combat heavy smoke from Northern Ontario forest fires, and set out to beautify his community last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Caledon kid wants to make Earth Day everyday for the community

Continued from FRONT

A plan to clean up garbage and be kinder to Mother Earth was put in place and Belerique and his mother spent their first day walking around their neighbourhood and collecting refuse.

After the very first run, it was decided that every Thursday from 8:30 am to 10 am and then again from 2 pm to 3 pm, Belerique and his mom would walk their route from Dougall Avenue up to Learmont and pick up as many pieces as they could find.

“I would say we get probably over 100 to 200 pieces each time we pick items up,” says Kate.

All strapped up in his gear of gloves, pick and a garbage bag, Belerique looks for any items he can find that need to be tossed out. Waving over to his mom, he points at the number of water bottles and chip bags that he sees on the ground.

“He sees a lot of pop cans, water bottles, utensils and a lot of fast-food garbage,” says Kate.

However, not all the items that are collected are normal, everyday garbage. Items such as random toys, a bicycle tire, and even a debit card were found while Belerique was out on his journey.

Regardless of how many items he finds, Belerique continues his walk with a smile on his face and grabber in hand.

When asked what his favourite part of the mission is, he said that it was using the grabber to pick up the trash and put it in the garbage bag that he enjoyed the most, especially when picking up glass as he gets to see the pretty decorations and designs that are on the glassware.

“A problem that we have noticed is that there is only one garbage can in the area and that is probably why people are littering their trash as there isn’t anywhere to put it,” says Kate. “At the end of the day when all of our work is down and we have picked up our pieces, we take the bag home, throw it out and properly clean up.”

To spread awareness about his plan, Belerique has his own Instagram titled @bashestrashes and, further down the line, hopes to get other people involved and can make a bigger impact on the community.

“If anyone wants to join us, we’ll supply the garbage bags and gloves, and they can join us for a nice movement,” says Kate. “But it also helps to inspire others if they see that their neighbourhood is just as bad that they can make a change.”

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Rate reduction varies on select model.]; or (ii) an Owner Loyalty Rebate of up to \$1,000 off the purchase or lease of select new Mazda models [\$500/\$1,000 is currently available to qualifying retail customers who purchase/finance/lease a select new, in-stock 2026 CX-5, CX-30, Mazda3, Mazda3 Sport/2026 CX-70, CX-90, MX-5, MX-5 RF model. Rebate will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes, has no cash surrender value and can be combined with lease/finance rates or any other offer.] Offers available only at authorized Mazda Retailers in Canada until July 31, 2026. Offers and qualifying models are subject to change. Conditions apply. Offer is subject to change or cancellation without notice. 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# BUSINESS

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## Rotary District reflects on million-dollar success, impact of “Million Dollar Gala”

BY KATHRYN FRASER  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On May 22, Rotary District 7080 held its “Unite for Good” Million Dollar Gala at the home of the RBC Canadian Open, Osprey Valley Golf Club in Caledon.

Not only was this gala a success, but it marked a landmark achievement for Rotary District 7080.

The Gala marked the end of the district’s million-dollar campaign to raise funds for The Rotary Foundation Canada, and was aimed to secure long-term resources for the foundation.

The intimate event hosted 63 guests with special notable appearances, one being the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health of Ontario, Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, who delivered the opening remarks of the night.

In her remarks, Minister Jones highlighted her family’s involvement with the Rotary and all the success the company has had over the years.

Keynote speaker Jennifer Jones delivered a deeply moving speech about experiencing a polio project that had taken place in Pakistan. She expressed her goal for the trip was to meet with healthcare workers on the frontlines and offer her thanks.

Jones explained that tens of thousands of females and some male frontline healthcare workers go door to door to administer polio vaccines every day to make sure that no child is forgotten and receives proper treatment, and that they deserved some thanks for all their hard work.

In her address, Jones told the audience, “That moment is why I do what I do, so that no more children will have to suffer from this prevent-

able disease”.

Another noted speaker at this event was Event Chair and District Endowment and Major Gifts Chair Richard Delongte, who reflected on his personal journey and recalled his younger days as a firefighter helping in New York City during the 9/11 attacks.

Delongte explained his assistance in responding to these attacks led to his being exposed to toxic smoke and dust at Ground Zero, which eventually caused him to be diagnosed with two separate cancers and a need for a liver transplant.

He then explained to the audience that his journey through all these experiences became the driving force behind his motivation to give back to the Rotary Foundation.

Both Delongte and his wife, the former District Governor of 7080 Susanne Zbinden, are both deeply dedicated to The Rotary Foundation and are amongst the major donors for the charity.

Many of the attendees of the event were also major donors or Bequest Society members and Rotary leaders, all who generously contributed to helping to raise a total of \$1,414,828 CAD at the Bank of Canada rate on that day for The Rotary Foundation.

All funds raised from the event will go towards local initiatives in District 7080 and global initiatives for the Rotary Fund focusing on areas including peacebuilding, health, education and economic development.

Being one of the biggest top ranked charities in the world, the Rotary Foundation has roughly 1.2 million volunteers worldwide with many other partnerships. The Rotary Foundation’s partnership with the Global Polio Initiative has helped to vaccinate nearly 3 billion children and

has protected about 22 million children from suffering lifelong paralysis caused by polio.

In addition to its many partnerships, District 7080 also has several different district grant projects and global grants projects for a variety of communities. Some of these include installing a peace pole in a Mississauga community park, refurbishing a food pack room in Bangladesh etc.

Highlighted global grant programs included Water First program, which trains indigenous youth in Northern Ontario as certified water operators and water quality analysts, installing solar power clean water systems for secondary and

primary schools in Kenya and the Heart2Heart Pediatric Care Project in Egypt which completes non-invasive cardiac procedures on infants.

By having projects such as these it shows how dedicated The Rotary Foundation is to create change both and how much long-lasting change, they have accomplished in their community and for other communities across the globe as well.

“This evening was a powerful celebration of what happens when Rotarians unite with purpose,” says Richard Delongte in a statement. “The generosity shown by our members and partners ensures that the promise of Rotary will continue to grow for generations to come.”

## Theatre Orangeville jumps back into gear with municipal help

BY JOSHUA DRAKES  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A loan approved by the Town of Orangeville represents a bridge to financial stability for Theatre Orangeville rather than a bailout.

The municipality will front the theatre company \$200,000 over five years, with five per cent interest, and another \$100,000 shorter-term loan to cover interest accumulated from debt.

Many professional theatre companies across Canada have faced such hardship from COVID-19 pandemic-era.

Artistic Director Jennifer Stewart said the theatre has been battling financial challenges that were driven by years of rising operating costs, inflation, and reduced revenues following COVID-19 social shutdowns, leaving a widening gap between expenses and income.

Continued on Page 17

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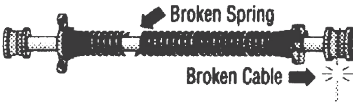
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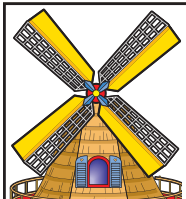
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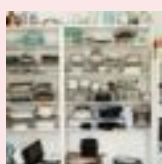
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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM (BILL) MATHESON  
1945-2026



William (Bill) Matheson, of St. John, New Brunswick, at the age of 81 years, passed away peacefully on Friday, July 17, 2026, with his family by his side at Etobicoke General Hospital. A devoted husband to the late Dale Matheson (nee Catto, 2021), loving father to son David (Stephanie) and daughters Cheryl Lis (Matthew) and Lauren Brown (Steve). Cherished Grandpa to Morgan, Rory and Brooklyn Matheson, Brayden, Madison and Ethan Brown and Olivia and Emma Lis. Beloved son of the late Murray and Hazel (Law) Urquhart. Dear brother of Murray (Shannon) Urquhart, Celia (Willard) Kennedy, sisters-in-law Diane Catto, Lynn Urquhart (Bryan) and Cindy Urquhart (John), Janis Catto (Doug), and predeceased by brothers Harry Matheson (2024), Walter Matheson (2025), Bryan Urquhart (2012) and John Urquhart (2012). Fondly remembered by his cousin Elsie (Donnie) Sharp, and all of his extended family and friends on the East coast, as well as the McGregor/Funston clan. Missed by all his dear Bolton neighbours and friends, his golf crew and his many curling friends.

A devoted husband, loving father, proud grandfather and loyal friend, Bill lived a life of integrity and service, devoting 40 years to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the Drug Squad, retiring at the rank of Staff Sergeant in 2005. Beyond his distinguished career, he found joy in life's simple pleasures. Whether he was tending to his garden, at the baseball diamond coaching the Bolton Braves, enjoying a round on the golf course or sharing laughs and a drink at the curling rink, he treasured the friendships and memories those moments brought.

Above all else, Bill's greatest love and achievement was his family. He loved his children and grandchildren beyond measure and was a generous and strong yet gentle force that was always a great support and cheerleader in all of their endeavors. He shared a beautiful and enduring love with his beloved wife Dale. Their bond was one of unwavering devotion, and while her loss left a profound void in his life, he carried her with him every day. The family takes comfort in imagining them reunited once again.

Thank you to Caledon Fire and Peel Paramedics for their quick response and compassionate care.

The family will receive their friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen St. S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Thursday from 5-8 o'clock. Funeral service will be held on Friday, July 24th at 2 o'clock. Private family interment at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bolton. Reception to follow at Caesar's Centre, 12495 Hwy 50, Bolton.

Condolences for the family may be offered at [www.EganFuneralHome.com](http://www.EganFuneralHome.com)

RICH, FLORENCE

Peacefully, at Hastings Centennial Manor, Bancroft, on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at the age of 93 years, beloved wife of the late Kenneth Rich. Loving mother of Darryl. Dear step-mother of John, Kendra, Philip, Jennifer, Michael (deceased). Proud Grandmother of Brandon and step-grandmother of Shona, Sarah, Christopher, Allison, Danielle, Jennifer-Amanda, Beverley, David, and Michelle. Visitation for family and friends at the Egan Funeral Home, 203 Queen Street S. (Hwy. 50), Bolton (905-857-2213) on Monday afternoon 2 - 4 o'clock. Funeral service was held in the chapel on Tuesday morning, July 21 at 11 o'clock. Interment Morningside Cemetery, Palgrave. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice. Condolences for the family may be offered at [www.EganFuneralHome.com](http://www.EganFuneralHome.com).

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IAN JAMES CARMICHAEL

We are sorry to announce Ian James Carmichael passed away July 7, 2026 with his family by his side. He leaves behind his two loving children his grandchildren and many family members & friends. He will be remembered for his smile & joy for life. Ian grew up in Bolton and was well known in the community for many years. He was a true sportsman and will be missed. Please contact Brown's Family Funeral Home to leave a tribute or picture for Ian's Remembrance Book.

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Canada Post and the  
Shuttering of Community  
Newspapers

The shuttering of Winnipeg's Community Review means 200,000 households will no longer get the benefit of a free community newspaper delivered to their door. It also means that more than 800 people who deliver the paper and their families will be affected.

This is an unforced error that never should have happened. How did we get here? The answer is complex.

First, there is a high degree of concentration in the flyer printing market in Canada. Montreal-based TC Transcontinental enjoys the dominant position in the marketplace thanks, in part, to a 2012 Competition Bureau-approved asset swap.

Second, municipal and provincial politicians have passed environmental regulations, however well-intentioned, have unintended consequences. Former Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante passed a municipal bylaw that led to the end of distribution of Publisac (a plastic bag with flyers and a community newspaper). Several provinces, including Manitoba, have imposed extended producer responsibility levies on printed newspapers. Ontario's Premier Doug Ford made the wise decision to exempt newspapers from this kind of stealthy journalism job-killing tax in his province.

Third, Canada Post is the biggest culprit. TC Transcontinental, which had distributed Publisac door-to-door in Quebec, formed a strategic partnership with Canada Post, which as a Crown corporation was not beholden to municipal by-laws. They bypassed Mayor Plante's new regulation by distributing a curated bundle of flyers called Raddar through the national postal service. Unlike Publisac, Raddar did not include a community newspaper. On the sidelines of this saga, news publisher Métro Média and its more than 30 hyperlocal publications — including 17 print newspapers — shut down.

In partnership with Canada Post, TC Transcontinental recently expanded its Raddar offering across Canada. It is understood that Canada Post — which has a mandate to “charge postage rates that are fair and reasonable” — is offering TC Transcontinental rates below what it is offering to community newspapers. To its own benefit, the Crown corporation has effectively shut community newspapers — their private sector rivals — out of flyer distribution, lessening competition substantially in that market.

This is not the first time community newspaper publishers have felt the squeeze of Canada Post in the flyer distribution market. As of January 2024, community newspapers with commercial inserts were no longer exempt from Canada Post's Consumers' Choice program, which allows Canadians to opt out of receiving 'junk mail'. Canada

Post made that decision without stakeholder consultation or economic/social impact analysis and failed to recognize that community newspapers — with or without an insert — are not 'junk mail'; they are a social good.

The juxtaposition of the shuttering of Winnipeg's Community Review at the same time as the revelation of \$30.8 million in bonuses at Canada Post has not been lost on community newspaper publishers across Canada.

What should Ottawa do about it?

First, Joël Lightbound, the Minister responsible for Canada Post, should ensure the Crown corporation is treating community newspapers fairly and offering them comparable pricing to what it offers to TC Transcontinental.

Second, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage should conduct hearings into the role Canada Post can play in the sustainability of community newspapers — ensuring the relationship is one of partnership, rather than predatory and parasitic.

When a community loses a newspaper, like Winnipeg's Community Review or Métro Média's publications in Quebec, the information vacuum can lead to people getting their news from less than reliable sources — like AI and social media — which can create division that drives people apart. Without a check on local government, corruption, mismanagement, and wasteful spending often flourish, which can result in higher municipal taxes and borrowing costs.

It was not foreign Big Tech monopolists like Google and Meta that caused Manitoba's largest community newspaper to shutter. It was Canada Post.

And it's not like we weren't warned...

Thirty years ago, in his review of Canada Post's mandate, George Radwanski recommended that postal service get out of delivering unaddressed junk mail (i.e., flyers), concluding that the Crown corporation engaged in inappropriate practices that created unfair competition for private businesses like community newspapers.

As a former Toronto Star editor-in-chief, Radwanski knew the news business. He noted that Canada Post was actively siphoning advertising revenue away from the news industry and adroitly cautioned that the state-granted mail delivery monopoly should not be in the business of crippling the financial health of newspapers.

A healthy democracy demands a healthy community news media ecosystem. Let's level the playing field and restore competition in the flyer distribution market before more community newspapers shutter.

*Paul Deegan is president and chief executive officer of News Media Canada*

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# Dufferin Film Festival returns next month for third year

**BY JOSHUA DRAKES**  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Dufferin Film Festival will return to Orangeville this summer for its third annual celebration of independent Canadian cinema, bringing filmmakers from across the country together for a weekend of screenings, networking, and community events. Running Aug. 14 to 16, the volunteer-run festival will once again be centred at the Orangeville Opera House, while expanding this year to include new programming at the Orangeville Public Library. Festival Director Kelly McDowell said that the festival showcases Canadian short films from emerging and independent filmmakers, offering audiences the chance not only to watch films, but also to meet the creators during question and answer sessions. “They kind of become a part of our com-

munity for the weekend,” she said. The festival’s mission is to provide a platform for independent Canadian filmmakers whose work may not otherwise reach wide audiences while demonstrating the strength and diversity of Canada’s film industry. Organizers have also worked to create an event that welcomes casual moviegoers alongside dedicated film enthusiasts, making the festival accessible to anyone interested in discovering new Canadian stories. Several additions are planned for this year’s festival. A new family-friendly screening on Saturday afternoon will feature youth-oriented programming. “It’s family friendly in terms of most of the content is child or youth oriented,” McDowell said. “We have cartoons on some of them. We have a documentary that’s actually local about bees, so it’s all appropriate for every age group. We also made it a short-

er runtime, so you know if there are young ones there, they won’t have to sit through a lot of films. We lowered the ticket price so it’s more affordable to families.” Another major addition is an opening-night social event at the Orangeville Public Library. The library will host live entertainment, interactive art experiences, refreshments, and opportunities for attendees to meet filmmakers in a relaxed setting. The new venue also makes the entire festival fully accessible while showcasing one of the community’s cultural spaces in a new way. What continues to set the Dufferin Film Festival apart is its community focused atmosphere. Rather than simply attending screenings, audiences have the opportunity to interact directly with filmmakers throughout the weekend, discuss the creative process and build connections within Canada’s independent film community.

“I think that what makes Dufferin Film Festival different is that it’s really intimate, and that’s something that both the filmmakers have said and the audience have said,” McDowell said. “People can come down and actually not just ask questions on stage, but then hang out with filmmakers and share what they thought.” Organizers say that sense of accessibility has become one of the festival’s defining features as it continues to grow nationally while remaining rooted in Orangeville. The festival also recreates many elements of a major film festival experience, including a red carpet, networking events and awards presentations, while maintaining a strong community focus. With ticket sales already ahead of last year’s pace, organizers are expecting another successful weekend celebrating Canadian filmmaking in Dufferin County.

## Theatre Orangeville jumps back into gear with municipal help

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“There was a widening gap over the last three or four years that has been difficult for Theatre Orangeville and theatres all over the country,” she said. “That’s where we were at, and we had this deficit, trying to pay it off, but we couldn’t, but we wanted to keep the doors open.” Because Theatre Orangeville operates strictly as a not-for-profit professional theatre company, the pandemic was particularly harsh, with no large fund from years of profits to rely upon. Stewart said that this is by design, to keep prices down and to keep the theatre eligible for grants, so the quality is not impacted, either. “The goal is to be at zero,” she said. “If you have too much money in your savings, then you don’t get access to the arts council grants. It’s that fine balance of knowing how much you need to spend, and then spending it. “Take Mirvish, for example, a for-profit theatre company. The decisions they make are because they need to make money where we’re not-for-profit, which is easier from our standpoint because it takes that pressure off of us. We can create things and try things and bring new things to this community that haven’t been done anywhere else.” The COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying social shutdowns destabilized that balance and changed that strategy. After exhausting all its other options, the organization determined municipal assistance was the only remaining option. It was a tough moment and cast a shadow of uncertainty over the team behind Theatre Orangeville. “We asked for extra sponsorships, donors, but everyone’s feeling the crunch and the pinch of increasing costs, and so there just wasn’t that much available.” Stewart said. “This was sort of a last resort.” Stewart emphasized the loan was only approved after the organization presented the Town with a balanced operating plan for the 2026-27 season and demonstrated its ability to repay the funds. “We had to prepare,” she said. “We had to show the town that we were fiscally responsible moving forward with the new operating budget for the ‘26-’27 season, and we had to prove to them that we’d be able to have the funds, the revenue to pay it back. We didn’t know if the loan was going to go through.”

Laura Austin, Chairperson of Theatre Orangeville’s Board of Directors, said that prior to the meeting, the theatre had already made significant reductions in spending to pay off outstanding expenses, proving their reliability to repay a loan granted to them. “Over the last six months, we have demonstrated that reliability, as we’ve paid off \$150,000,” she said. “We met with every department. We really went through a cost containment over the last six months. Where can we make cuts? What is absolutely not necessary right now moving forward because we need to pay off our debt so that we can keep the doors open. “I think that’s what convinced the CFO and CAO that we were capable and that we were righting the ship.” The presentation to Council reached the right points, as it was supported unanimously. Rather than viewing the loan as an investment in a single organization, theatre representatives argue it is an investment in a community asset that reaches well beyond the stage. In addition to producing professional theatre, Theatre Orangeville operates youth camps, educational programming, after-school initiatives, concerts, film screenings and partnerships with local organizations. Austin described the theatre as a creative outlet for children, seniors and adults alike, providing opportunities not only for performers, but also for those interested in technical theatre, production, carpentry, lighting and sound. “We fill in the gaps where some kids aren’t athletic and play lacrosse and hockey, for example,” she said. “We have after school programs, and then there’s all different kinds of roles in theatre. You could be into lighting or sound, or we’ve had a lot of interns come through for the production side. They’re building sets and doing carpentry or scene painting. There’s a wide variety of different skills you can build here.” The theatre also pointed to its economic impact, saying productions draw visitors into Orangeville’s downtown where audiences often dine, shop and support local businesses before or after performances. Austin said the venue provides professional-calibre productions comparable to those found in larger urban centres while encouraging residents and visitors to experience Orangeville’s restaurants

and retail sector. “We support the Blues and Jazz Festival, we just did Nashville Takeover, we have the Dufferin Film Festival,” she said. “There’s also the Orangeville Musical Theatre...and while they’re a volunteer-run amateur theatre, they have access to a professional stage, professional lighting, and professional sound. It’s wonderful that we can support that... Alton Public School... they use our ticketing... so Theatre Orangeville really facilitates programming in the community, which I think is a great service not every town is fortunate enough to have.” Officials stressed that the theatre’s success depends on continued community support rather than additional public funding. They said the most effective way residents can help is by purchasing tickets, enrolling children in camps and participating in programs already being offered. Revenue generated through attendance allows the theatre to reduce debt while maintaining affordable programming and continuing to develop new Canadian productions and community partnerships. Looking ahead, Stewart said that Theatre Orangeville plans to strengthen its financial position through touring productions, co-productions with other theatres and expanded subscription options. The expanded options include the new Flex Subscription, which allows patrons to commit to the five-show or three-show mainstage packages and then reserve their seats for the performances that best fit their schedules. The new touring plans are at the center of Stewart’s vision for the future. “I really want to take Theatre Orangeville shows on the road,” she said. “We want to do tours. We are applying for touring grants right now from the OAC and the Canada Council, because there’s a lot of opportunities to do co-productions with similar-sized theatres as ours. If we can do co-productions, it shares the initial cost, and the actors have more work, and we reach a greater audience.” Theatre Orangeville said that their goal is to repay the loan in full, while continuing to rebuild public awareness of the role the organization plays in Orangeville’s cultural and economic life. They will also be working to restore confidence in the organization and ensure the theatre remains a lasting community resource for years to come.



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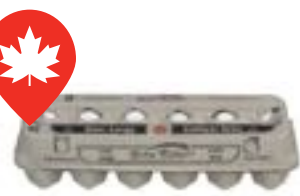
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