

# Caledon Citizen

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## Covering all of Caledon

Office Administrator: Cheryl Phillips

Telephones: 905-857-6626 or 905-857-5846

Fax: 905-857-6363

Email: admin@caledoncitizen.com

Website: www.caledoncitizen.com

Main Office: 25 Queen Street North, Bolton  
Mailing Address: 25 Queen Street, North, Bolton L7E 1C1

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Advertising Manager: John H. Archibald

Editor: Mark Pavilons Email: editor@caledoncitizen.com

Staff Reporter: Alan Liczyk Email: alan@caledoncitizen.com

## Voting is one of our fundamental privileges

If you haven't already done so at one of the advance polls, some of you will make your way to the nearest school or community centre Monday night to cast a vote for mayor, councillors and trustee.

A vote is a terrible thing to waste. Be part of your own future and exercise your right to vote.

We can't stress that enough. The point was even made by several candidates during local debates - get out and vote! In recent years, voter turnout has dropped dramatically, to roughly 30%. Odd, since municipal elections, and local representatives hit close to home. They make decisions that effect us the most and decide where our property tax dollars go.

The movers and shakers in Caledon and Peel Region decide on local growth, roads, garbage pickup, policing, health and social services. The school boards take in a substantial amount of our tax dollars, and their spending habits should also be noted and our wants and needs kept in mind.

And all local representatives are open to scrutiny and held accountable. That's the beauty of our democratic system, a process that many died to preserve. As we mark Remembrance Day observances locally, we should thank our veterans, whose ranks are dwindling, for their sacrifices to keep us free.

Many of us have never known war. We grew up in a prosperous time, enjoying democratic rights and freedoms, universal health care, access to education and yes, even snow removal.

All of these things didn't just materialize overnight. Military might, political will and yes, the active participation of the people, all led to the bounty we enjoy today.

But, alas, we tend to ignore these things come election time. Others will look after us, we think to ourselves silently. Not so.

It takes a lot of effort, from a lot of people, at many levels, to make things work. Our system of government is almost like an orchestra - you can really tell when certain instruments are missing. But when it all comes together in unison, boy what a song!

It's said people receive the government they deserve. In other words, vote or not,

those elected are just the people the public deserves in power.

So, you have a choice. You can leave such a monumental decision up to your neighbour, real estate agent or doctor, hoping for the best. Or you can actually make your way down the street and cast a vote. Believe it or not, you are making a difference. Many things have been decided by just one vote.

We've seen many people come and go at Caledon's council table. Many have been memorable, and left lasting impressions. Some are quite forgettable. But that doesn't really matter. What matters is this - average people make the decision to serve their community in this manner. Regardless of education, achievements and awards, each and every individual brings unique skills to the table. Everyone has something to offer.

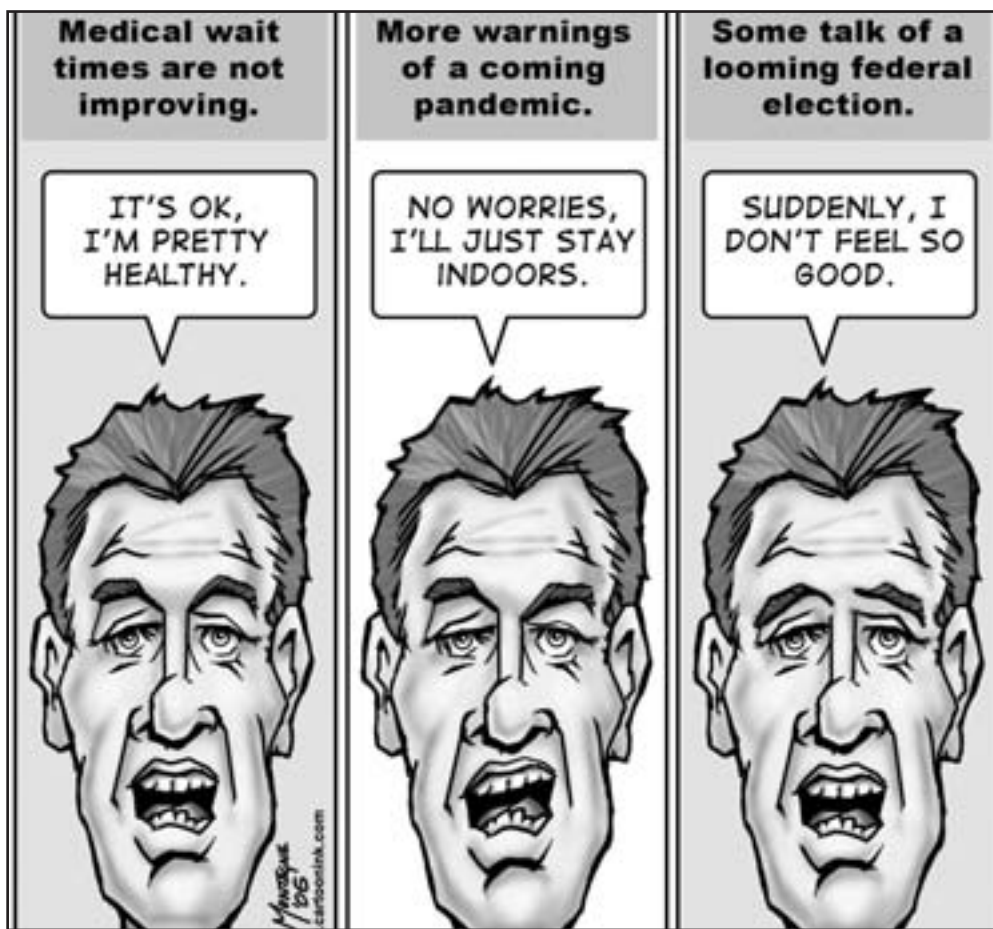
To all those who threw their hat in the ring, we salute you. Without you, there'd be little choice, and democracy would stumble. We also praise those who organized all-candidates' meetings in the community. Again, without such forums for debate and discussion, where would we be?

And let's not forget the tireless, unsung campaign heroes, who work hard behind the scenes, trying to get their person elected. They have passion and commitment, and these things can never be discounted or ignored. Their contributions are integral to the political process, so thank you.

During the "silly season" as election time is often called, few give any credit to the Town of Caledon staff. These are the experts - the engineers, planners and number crunchers - who help oil the municipal machinery. They also help train politicians and offer them guidance in their roles. Many neophytes have no clue how anything works at the Town, and staff are there to provide answers and direction. To them, we appreciate your efforts in keeping the ship from listing.

In the coming days, take time to remember and pay tribute to Canada's fallen soldiers, who gave so much so we could have so much.

And take a few minutes to vote and make their sacrifices worthwhile!



## Our Readers Write

### Pavilons presumptuous

The argument presented by Mark Pavilons in his Nov. 1 column "Living in an age of avoidance," was presumptuous and missed the real issue.

Today's society is not living in a culture of avoidance. To the contrary, people living in the west are inundated with vast quantities of information, and as a result, have become either highly informed or completely shut down.

The link between "legitimized avoidance" and large conglomerates made by Pavilons is trivial. Canada Post's new labour laws may be a disservice to long-time customers who live in rural areas, however, the very root of labour laws is to protect fellow citizens/workers. Would you rather avoid on the job hazards affecting Canada Post workers or initiate a conversation on how to improve job safety?

The amount of information at each citizen's disposal provides the opportunity to fully engage in the happenings of society, and not "avoid." It is sad to hear the editor of one of Caledon's papers, a job that stands for awareness and the distribution of information, formally state, "we are living in an era

of avoidance, and neglect, all in the name of profit and self-preservation." This is a highly cynical, biased remark at the expense of all who consider themselves active citizens.

Melodie Caruso

### Great postal service

Recently letters and articles have been written quite critical of the service provided by Canada Post. I want to make a different comment, a very positive one.

Through my error in requesting and using an incorrect form, my mail was recently mis-directed. After waiting for a couple of days to see if the problem was in the delivery, I phoned the Van Kirk Distribution Centre, and left a message outlining the problem as I saw it.

Very quickly I received a reply from Mort McDonald, and he proceeded to solve the problem as I outlined it. When that approach did not work and I phoned again, Mort searched through the procedures, and attempted to find another solution. With the assistance of a couple of delivery personnel on other routes, I was also able to contact my local delivery service person, and explained the problem to her.

The very next day, Mort phoned me again to explain what had really happened - where my mail had gone and the reason for it, and assured me that service to my house would begin again that very day. It did, and my deliverer also stopped to explain how they had worked out the real problem, and had corrected it.

I have found this typical of the service the people at Canada Post provide. Unfailingly polite in their approach, they treat their customers with respect, do their best to solve problems, and are willing to go the extra mile to make sure the mail gets through.

Ted Simmonds  
Caledon

### Action site volunteers are to be commended

I wish to commend the Bolton Community Action Site, and the hours of work these volunteers contributed, to the new Highway 50 pedestrian underpass at Hickman St. Also to be thanked are the several organizations which funded this project.

I have personally crossed this highway location for years now on my regular jogging route and most often felt that I was taking my life in my hands.

I can now safely jog my three-mile route without stopping once!

Bolton just keeps getting better! My thanks and appreciation to all those who made this project possible.

Donna Ure  
Bolton

# Caledon Citizen



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