



April 3, 2025

### **CALEDON'S YEAR OF LIVING TOO DANGEROUSLY**

Now hear this! It was one year ago this week that Caledon Town Council put the community on notice about the pre-zoning of some 5,000 acres – most of it prime farmland – for urban sprawl.

On April 4, 2024, notice went out from the Town proposing by-laws to amend the zoning on [12 parcels of land](#) in southern Caledon and north of Bolton, ignoring due process and with no understanding of the financial implications. Democracy Caledon mobilized – public meetings and news flashes, media coverage and flooding the Mayor and Councillors with emails and phone calls – leading to a groundswell of residents speaking at Town-held meetings and information sessions last April through June to oppose the terribly rushed and flawed process of turning our Town's future on its head.

Is [Democracy Caledon](#) opposed to all urban development? No! But does the Caledon community want our town to become a BRAND NEW CITY OF 300,000 people? Not that we've heard!

Mayor Groves and her allies – Councillors Russo, Rosa, Napoli and Maskell - voted as a bloc for THEIR vision of the future – a new City of Caledon. Caledon's community told them that this urban growth is too much, too fast and too expensive. Did they listen? No. In fact, they are doubling down, saying that major new urban growth is coming and we just have to be ready for it. Hold on a minute!

Council is ignoring what we are hearing from residents across Caledon – that we need to keep being a town where both urban and rural areas flourish; that we value "smart growth" which is more compact and affordable, not urban sprawl; that we need to save our prime farmland to help Canada feed itself; and that our forests, wetlands and waterways are natural treasures to be protected for coping with the climate crisis and for outdoor recreation.

In spite of huge community opposition, the 12 zoning by-laws were voted in by a Council majority last June and July. Since Democracy Caledon saw that so many Caledon residents have a different vision for the future of their home, we had to stop the runaway sprawl train in its tracks. So we took the Town to court starting last December, vowing to QUASH the 12 zoning by-laws.

In the three months since the start of Democracy Caledon's court action, we have worked flat out preparing for court. We have spent more than 500 hours of our volunteer time doing essential research on the 12 land parcels to assist our lawyers and land use planner. Late last week, our lawyers filed extensive and detailed documents in court to support our claim that the 12 zoning by-laws are illegal under Ontario's Municipal Act.

This has been a year of Caledon living far too dangerously. Our lands, our waterways, our traffic and our taxpayers' pockets are under too much threat from Council's reckless haste in pushing a brand new city on Caledon residents. Democracy Caledon is forging ahead, doing our best to change the channel.

Court cases are expensive... and ours is no exception. While we have raised over \$50,000 to date – thank you so much! – we have already spent almost all of that, with tens of thousands more budgeted for the coming months. We now need your help more than ever. Please consider either your first donation to Democracy Caledon or a top-up to your earlier donation. Caledon's very future is at stake! You can donate [here](#) for a charitable tax receipt.

We'll keep you regularly posted with updates. Contact us any time at [info@democracymcaledon.org](mailto:info@democracymcaledon.org)

Thank you!

The Democracy Caledon Campaign Team