

A Look at Our Journey Over Time...

In 1986, the Caledon Information Centre obtained funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to assess the need for a family resource centre for children, parents, and caregivers. The Ministry focused attention on Caledon as a result of an inquest, which had been held because of a fire that took the life of a caregiver and the children in her care. They were concerned that there were insufficient support services for those caring for young children. A needs assessment was done and a steering committee formed.

The committee formulated the initial mission statement, philosophy, and goals for the Centre. In 1987-88, after a year of planning, the Caledon Parent-Child Centre was opened for 17 hours per week as a toy lending library and drop-in centre, and began visiting eight rural communities. In 1989, due to the overwhelming response of children, parents, and caregivers, the main Centre moved to a larger location and began operating for 35 hours per week. On June 23, 1989, the Caledon Parent-Child Centre was incorporated and became an independent charitable organization.

From our earliest days as a Family Resource Centre (affectionately referred to as the “toy lending library”), our devotion to early child development has been a keystone to who we are and what we do. As the community grew, so did we. We learned from our community and responded to their needs by creating a hybrid service model that fused the guiding principles of family support with early learning and child development.

Since our inception, we have consistently delivered free, high quality and inclusive early years programs and services for parents, caregivers and children 0-6 years. In 2003, we became an Ontario Early Years Centre (rebranded in 2019 to become EarlyON Child and Family Centres) and more than tripled our programs. Substantial facility and staffing expansion took place to accommodate the growing number of families and children who accessed our programs and services each day.

Our service model offers a successful blend of all ages and developmentally specific programs including those with complex needs or barriers. Families can choose from a suite of 20+ unique, adult/child early learning programs that best meet their needs and preferences.

Key Milestones

- Today Since 1987, tens of thousands of children, parents and caregivers continue to receive support, access resources and participate in early learning programs and workshops at BrightStart Caledon Family Centre.
- 2024 After a comprehensive rebranding strategy, Caledon Parent-Child Centre became BrightStart Caledon Family Centre. New name, new look but the same great organization serving Caledon children and families.
- 2022 Completion of a new strategic plan identified four strategic directions which will take us into a bright future where CPCC is a community hub where children are nurtured and families flourish.
- 2021 Opening of new sites in Southfields Village and Caledon East Village, made possible through EarlyON growth initiatives. 27 hours of services per week added.

2020 Transitioned to virtual services and outdoor programs to reach families in new ways in response to Covid pandemic.
 CPCC affirms its Equity Commitment. An action plan is developed to advance priorities in the workplace, our services and the Caledon Community

2019 Thanks to EarlyON one-time grants, improvements were made to our environments and equipment across all locations.

2018 Region of Peel became Systems Manager for EarlyON organizations, and a new funding model was introduced after 15 years of static funding. CPCC designated as the EarlyON Centre serving Caledon. A new service delivery model was implemented to increase access and deliver on the expanded Provincial EarlyON mandate.
 CPCC is approved for community-based capital funding to create dedicated program space in Caledon East.
 CPCC is also chosen as the successful agency for provision of EarlyON programming at Southfields Community Centre.

2016 Planning for Early Years transformation begins in 2016.

2017 Celebrated 30 years of service to Caledon residents.

2016 Bolton Main Site is given a cosmetic facelift.

2015 CPCC works along with Town of Caledon and other community service providers to explore the creation of a Community Hub in Mayfield West to align with the Provincial initiative for community hubs. CPCC develops a “Blue-sky Vision” that outlined a plan to expand services in a growing community which with limited services to better meet local needs.

2014 Responsibility of family support and resource programs transfers from Ministry of Children and Youth Services to Ministry of Education, a positive step in realizing a more integrated and seamless early years system vision.

2013 **Teresa Colasanti accepted the position of Executive Director to support and lead the organization through tremendous growth and change as Caledon grows and flourishes.**

2012 Celebrated 25 years of service to Caledon residents

2007 Partnered with Brampton/Caledon Community Living to provide support for families raising children with disabilities. Let’s Get Together group met weekly to share resources, connect with other families and learn together while receiving respite care for children and siblings.

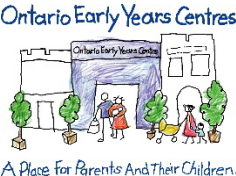
2005 The Adjustments After Birth Program was introduced to respond to the needs of mothers experiencing Post-Partum Mood Disorders.

2004 Toy Lending Library closed after much research on usage. Staff were then able to devote more time to new programs for families and children.

2003 CPCC became the Ontario Early Years Centre and services/programs were added and enhanced to respond to the growing population in Caledon. Trillium funding was secured to support our Bolton site being expanded to almost double its original size. Extensive renovations to the site.

1998 CPCC successful in application for funding from the United Way of Peel Region. Funding supported CPCC to hire additional staff to support a busy early learning environment and Toy Lending Library.

1996 - 98 We applied for & received Community Programs Funding through the Region of Peel to enhance our Parent Education Programs. This was also used to help support our rural programs.



- 1997 Funding provided by Health Canada (Community Action Programs for Children) supported services and programs for families living in isolation and experiencing socio-economic challenges. Programs were offered at PCC House on Hwy 10, south of Inglewood.
- 1994 **Maureen Thornton was hired to step into the role of Executive Director to lead the CPCC further in the important service to children, parents and care providers.**
- 1995 “SAVE OUR CENTRE” Families and community members rallied to support the continued funding for a valuable resource to the residents of Caledon Communities. This happened after we lost a substantial amount of funding.
- 1990 Home Child Care Providers formed a group (Bolton and District Home Child Care Providers), an active and busy group that gathered to learn and share.
- 1989 Bolton CPCC moved into larger permanent space in the Albion Bolton Community Centre. The CPCC became a registered incorporated charity. In the new space, hours were expanded from 17 hours per week to 35 hours a week serving 8 rural communities. These communities were serviced by staff, a mobile unit & rented space in each community.
- 1988 Bolton site of the Caledon Parent-Child Centre/Family Resource Centre opened for residents caring for children 0 to 6 years of age. Families could drop-in to play & purchase a membership to borrow toys from the Toy Lending Library. The fee was \$10 per year.
- 1987 November 27 – CPCC mobile unit arrived at the Alton Legion to deliver the first morning of Family Time and Toy Lending Services for local families and residents. Two staff provided this service to several communities on a bi-weekly basis.
- 1987 Planning, hiring, purchasing and prep for the opening of the Caledon Parent-Child Centre.
- 1987 **The founding Executive Director of the Caledon Parent-Child Centre, Leanne Flood began the work with a steering committee to build this exceptional resource and support for the residents of Caledon.**
- 1986 Inquest held identifying the need for support for residents caring for young children. A group of women met at the Caledon Information Centre located in Caledon East to determine how this could be achieved. An application was submitted to the Provincial Government and funding was approved.
- 1985 A devastating fire occurred at a residence located on Willow Street in Bolton. A devoted childcare provider and the young children in her care could not be saved.

