

Businesses, community banded together to improve services in 2013— Bonnette

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facilities— the new Halton Hills Cultural Centre & Georgetown Library and the expanded Mold-Masters SportsPlex. Since its opening in January of this year, the Georgetown library has attracted 12,000 people every month, and seen a 53 per cent increase in the number of library cards issued.

Businesses and the community have combined together to raise close to \$10 million in campaign funds to help build the library, arenas, hospital expansion and CT scanner. That doesn't include the community's regular support for the United Way and Salvation Army campaigns.

"This is outstanding and something we should all be proud of," said Bonnette.

On the business side, the Toronto Premium Outlets opened in August generating development charges, building permits and tax revenue but also 500 full-time jobs and 300 part-time jobs— many of those jobs going to Halton Hills residents. The Outlets owners, Simon Property Group, reported that sales generated in the first few months were the highest ever recorded in any of their 69 similar retail operations in the world.

The Town renamed the 401-407 Gateway Business Park to Halton Hills Premier Gateway to better reflect that these employment lands were within Halton Hills. Since 2006, more than 2 million sq. ft. new buildings have been built, employing 1,700 people.

The Town has also focused on cutting red tape for existing businesses wishing to expand. Additions up to 5,000 sq. ft. will now be approved with no site plan approval required— subject to some basic standards. Agricultural building expansions will be exempt from site plan approval.

The focus in 2014 will be on a num-



Rick Bonnette addresses the audience during Tuesday's annual mayor's Christmas speech hosted by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce at Eagle Ridge golf Club.

Photo by Ted Brown

ber of fronts, said Bonnette. The Town will keep an eye on a feasibility study on amalgamating the Georgetown and Milton police stations, and continuing discussions with Holcim on the expansion of the Acton Quarry and its possible after-use as well as monitoring plans for new quarries west of Acton and northeast of Norval.

The Town will also be developing a truck strategy to control the number of dump trucks travelling through the community to pits in surrounding townships, including asking the Ministry of Transportation to set up a truck inspection station on Hwy. 7 between Fourth Line and Trafalgar Rd., and to begin investigating a bypass around Acton's urban area.



A mother's helping hand

Eight-year-old Dalia Parenti gets a helping hand from mom Lisa in decorating a Christmas ornament during Saturday's Christmas party held at the Georgetown Salvation Army Church for children with autism.

Photo by Jon Borgstrom

Police blotter

Halton Police nab several drivers

Shortly after midnight Sunday Halton Police received a report of an erratic driver in the Georgetown GO station lot.

Police responded and pulled over a vehicle in the Mountainview Rd. and River Dr. area.

Charged with impaired driving and having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood is Colin Dickson, 22, of Georgetown.

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Halton Police were conducting a RIDE spot check in the Adamson St./Guelph St. area when police saw a vehicle turn down a side street. Police followed the vehicle and stopped the driver on Delrex Blvd.

Charged with having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood is John Walter, 40.

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A Brampton man is facing charges after police stopped a vehicle on Guelph St. just after 2 a.m. Friday.

Charged with having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood and impaired driving is Joseph Dimauro, 39.

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Police are investigating a break-in at Rego Automotive in Acton that occurred sometime between Friday and Saturday.

Taken was a 2005 GMC truck valued at \$10,000. The truck was found Saturday severely damaged by Haldimand OPP.

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Police are investigating a break-in into a shed at a Hewson Cr. residence sometime between Nov. 21 and Tuesday. Four tires, rims and a gas can, valued at about \$1,000 were taken.

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