

OPINION

Shop local

Halton Hills has always been defined as a strong caring community. And that was particularly evident in 2013.

Mega fundraising campaigns— attempting to raise close to \$10 million— were run for the the library, arenas and hospital expansions and renovations, not to mention the traditional fundraising events for United Way, Salvation Army, CASHh, Cancer Society, golf tournaments

Local businesses, in particular, stepped up to the plate and contributed large sums to the community campaigns as evidenced in today's paper on pg. 5 with Alcoa contributing \$30,000 to the Stay at Home and Play campaign.

Many of these same businesses rallied to help residents, despite losing power themselves during the destructive Christmas week ice storm.

"We just wanted to help the community," said Cecilia Jackman, manager of United Home Hardware.

But many businesses were dealt a financial blow by Mother Nature when the ice storm either closed their doors or kept shoppers away during their busiest and most profitable time of year.

When residents head back to the shops this year, they should remember local businesses supported this community throughout 2013 and will likely do so again in 2014.

The least residents could do is to shop local first.

WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to www.theifp.ca)

How do you think the Town of Halton Hills has handled the aftermath from the ice storm?

- It has done a great job (37%)
- It has done the best it could under bad circumstances (36%)
- It has handled it terribly (15%)
- It has done okay, but could have done better (12%)

The Independent & Free Press

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Letters to the editor

Reader replies multiculturalism is a good thing

Dear editor,
Re: Concert leaves reader upset, Dec 24.

First of all, as a parent at the (Robert Little School) concert, I thought there was a good balance of songs. It was nice to see something different than the same old, same old for a change.

Secondly, the teachers did not have to give up their personal time, or devote instructional time to helping your child shine on stage. There is also a lot of time and money from personal budgets that goes into this.

Thirdly, Robert Little is a FRENCH IMMERSION school, and Canada is a French-speaking nation. Dual languages reflects what Canada is all about.

We aren't "losing our own culture and values" by being inclusive. We teach anti-bullying and inclusion to our students on the playground. How can we enforce that,

if we complain about including people in our cultural make-up?

Judging from the smiles, and the enthusiasm, the show accomplished all that it set out to do— to allow our kids to have fun.

Multiculturalism is a good thing. Canada is a rainbow that's real.

Laura Henry
Acton

Mom said daughter loved singing Kwanzaa song

Dear editor,
Re: Concert leaves reader upset, Dec. 24

I just read a letter to the editor in the IFP and I have to say I am really disappointed in the person's post. Mr. Cain wrote to criticize the Robert Little holiday concert. He feels the kids didn't know what they were singing, that it wasn't "Christmasy" enough and that he is sick and tired of people trying to push other's beliefs on the average Canadian.

Frankly Mr. Cain, what concert did you sit through? It was a winter holiday concert and the kids were adorable. The song list had

songs representing all the beliefs celebrated in our community with a heavy weighing on Christmas... for goodness sake, there was a baby Jesus on stage and this is a public school in a public school board! My daughter worked for weeks in preparation for the concert and loved singing all the songs and if you ask her, the Kwanzaa song was her favourite to sing, that and Sing Gloria...if that isn't Canadian, I don't know what is? I feel sorry for you Mr. Cain, what a bitter and angry world you must live in.

Danielle Bedard,
Acton

More letters on pg. 7

Letters policy

Letters must include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 150 words and may be edited for content and/or length. Publication is not guaranteed.

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