

# COMMENT

From our readers

## Samaritan thanked for finding purse

Dear editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a very kind person for their act of kindness at the Canadian Tire store over Christmas.

I did not realize I left my purse in the cart outside, until a manager from Canadian Tire called to let me know that a citizen had found my purse and returned it to the store and it would be kept in the safe until I could pick it up.

I am so grateful to you for returning my purse and to Canadian Tire for taking the time to contact me and showing such honesty.

C. Patey  
Georgetown

## Christmas Dinner: demonstration of community spirit

Dear editor,

By Saturday, Dec. 21st, a total of 57 guests and 20+ volunteers had been arranged for holding the free Christmas Day dinner at St. Alban the Martyr church in Glen Williams. Then about 10 p.m. the lights went out and severe storms buffeted the church grounds. For the next few days, we held our breath and prayed that the dinner would not need to be cancelled.

At about 10 a.m. on Tuesday Dec 24th, the miracle workers of Halton Hills Hydro restored power to the church and a mad scramble started to chainsaw and remove about four badly damaged trees and start the dinner's preparation work.

Several neighbors near the church showed up unsolicited to assist with the tree clearing. Others sprung into action and with little direction arranged and decorated the Church Hall and tables.

On Christmas Day, the dinner went ahead on schedule with much help from the pre-arranged volunteers as well as some additional ones determined to help ensure the Christmas spirit prevailed. About 18 additional faces were added to the guest list on short notice to help those unfortunate neighbors who were left without light, heat or a means of making their Christmas feast. When all was tallied, the dinner was served to about 75 guests and a number of the 25+ volunteers.

On behalf of St. Alban the Martyr church in Glen Williams a heartfelt thank you to the many people in Glen Williams and the broader Halton Hills community who stepped forward to lend their generous help and their support in the form of donations for the dinner. Pulling together this dinner under trying circumstances clearly demonstrated the closeness and generosity of the Halton Hills community— thank you one and all.

On behalf of St. Alban's,  
Don Robinson

## Reader frustrated with snow removal

Dear editor,

Frustrations continue this year. I like many other residents are very thankful for all the Town and Hydro have done for us all this year and I am not one to normally complain about issues but our frustrations with snow removal continue. I am sure I am not alone when I say that the lack of snow removal in front of the schools in Halton are a major issue that seems to have no resolve. In the last few years the town does do the sidewalk in front of St Francis School but only on the side where the seniors apt. is and not down

Duncan. I witness parents leaving strollers with babies in them at corners while they walk their other children down the sidewalk to the entrance of the school. How unsafe is that but there is no way the strollers will make it in the deep snow. I personally on two occasions have helped seniors walk down Sinclair to the Calvert Dr. mall entrance because they were out of breath trying to walk in the deep snow.

If it is a battle of responsibility between schools and Town then the Town should clear them and bill the school board. This year I witnessed the crossing guard— bless his heart— bring his own shovel and between trying to cross the children to somewhere safe he was clearing the corners. This truly is an issue that needs resolving. Please sort this out before someone is seriously hurt.

Lauren Egerton  
Georgetown

## Where's my mail?

Dear editor,

I am writing this on Jan. 6 and since Dec. 20 we have had mailed delivered to our address in urban Georgetown once— on Jan. 2.

I realize that the weather has been an issue. (Our power was out for over four days.) However, I receive six day a week home delivery of the *Globe and Mail*, before 6 a.m., and they have not missed a day nor been late yet. I have also received courier deliveries regardless of whether the town has electrical power or not.

I suggest that the Canadian Government sell Canada Post to a private sector operator capable of maintaining service instead of their ridiculous plan to cut home delivery and raising prices.

Rod Taylor  
Georgetown

## Region approves tax reduction in 2014 budget

I am pleased to let you know that Regional Council approved the 2014 Budget and Business Plan, marking the fourth time in the last eight years that Halton Region has achieved a property tax reduction for Regional tax supported programs and services. Over the past eight years, we have either reduced or frozen taxes, this is an incredible achievement. Halton Region has one of the best records in Canada for keeping taxes low while maintaining and enhancing service levels.

This is great news for residents and businesses in Halton. We are one of the few municipalities in all of Canada that has actually reduced taxes. By maintaining our AAA credit rating and reducing our taxes we ensure Halton is competitive which attracts jobs and investment to our community.

Budget highlights include:

- \$177 million in transportation capital investment
- \$405,000 to create additional child care subsidies
- \$721,000 to maintain service levels for waste management services
- \$300,000 to increase the number of SPLIT passes available in the community (subsidy for bus passes for low income residents)
- \$65,000 to support the

development of an Agri-tourism Program to attract more tourism to Halton's rural communities

- \$195,000 for Locates (Ontario One Call) a new underground infrastructure notification system

- \$600,000 to support initiatives outlined in the Comprehensive Housing Strategy

- \$320,000 for assisted

housing programs including continued implementation of subsidies for low income residents

Halton Region's strong fiscal management policies ensure we can deliver high quality services for our residents. Our AAA rating and tax reduction attracts companies like Target, Siemens,

Toronto Premium Outlets and Gypsum Technologies Inc. making Halton a hotspot for business. To review the 2014 Budget and Business Plan, visit [www.halton.ca/budget](http://www.halton.ca/budget).

As always, if you have any Regional concerns or comments you would like to share, please feel free to email me at [gary.carr@halton.ca](mailto:gary.carr@halton.ca). You can also find me on Twitter @garycarrhalton, LinkedIn or Facebook.

To receive further updates on Regional issues, please subscribe to my quarterly e-newsletter, "The Carr Report."



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