

## We all win if you shop locally

We, as the local paper of record, are encouraging residents who are spending money this Christmas to make sure their dollars stay close to home.

Now more than ever, local retailers, car dealers, specialty shops, services and restaurants, to name but a few, need consumers to open their wallets here in Halton Hills.

Our local economy is no longer as strong as it once was and local retailers are placing their hopes on a good holiday season.

We can't let them down during the upcoming Christmas season.

While shopping, you can pause awhile at a café or restaurant.

You can take in old-fashioned Christmas displays and appreciate store owners who are proud of the goods they sell and who spend the necessary time intelligently answering customers' questions.

By spending your hard-earned dollars here you are helping to keep the town running smoothly.

The spin-off effects are tremendous.

There are so many unique gift ideas hidden in the stores and galleries of Halton Hills.

Canadians are cutting back this season, according to a poll from business analytics provider SAS.

According to the data, about one in five Canadians plan to spend less this year than in 2014.

That's not good news for retailers and it's even harder to swallow for local independent retailers. So if you do plan to shop till you drop, at least keep the money in our community.

After you are done your shopping, don't forget to put a local restaurant on your shopping list.

And before we forget, when you are out shopping, don't forget the local charities that need assistance. Set aside some extra dollars — or spend less — and give generously to all the groups and organizations that work so hard to ensure everyone has a happy Christmas.

### The Independent & Free Press

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## THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

905-873-0301

Publisher: Dana Robbins

General manager: Steve Foreman  
(sforeman@theifp.ca, 905-234-1011)

Retail advertising manager: Cindi Campbell  
(ccampbell@theifp.ca, 905-234-1012)

Managing editor: Chris Vernon  
(cvernon@metroland.com, 905-234-1020)

Distribution manager: Nancy Geissler  
(ngeissler@theifp.ca, 905-234-1019)

Classifieds/Real Estate

Kristie Pells  
(realestate@theifp.ca, 905-234-1016)

Advertising Sales

Jenny Hawkins  
(jhawkins@theifp.ca, 905-234-1014)

Jennifer Spencer  
(jspencer@theifp.ca, 905-234-1013)

Rachael Scutt  
(rscutt@theifp.ca, 905-234-1015)

Kelli Kosonic  
(kkosonic@theifp.ca, 905-234-1018)

Classified Call Centre

1-800-263-6480, Fax 1-866-299-1499  
classifieds@metroland.com

Accounting: 1-866-773-6575

Editorial

Cynthia Gamble: News editor  
(cgamble@theifp.ca, 905-234-1021)

Eamonn Maher: Staff writer/photographer  
(emaher@theifp.ca, 905-234-1023)

Kathryn Boyle: Staff writer/photographer  
(kboyle@theifp.ca, 905-234-1022)

Production

Shelli Harrison (sharrison@theifp.ca 905-234-1017)

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## Letters to the editor

### Thanks for making Santa program a success

The Optimist Club of Halton Hills would like to extend a very special thank you to everyone who contributed to the annual Santa Calls Program.

A great big heart felt thank you to the volunteers whose efforts are inspirational and have made a lasting impression on many children in Halton Hills.

In this busy world, it's wonderful to know that there are individuals like the Optimist members and many, many others who take the time to bring joy to children.

To Halton Hills parents, principals, and kindergarten teachers, thank you for participating in this year's program and helping make it such an incredible success.

Special thanks to the Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department for providing the space and facilitating Santa making his calls.

Final thanks, goes to Georgetown Subway, Golden Fish and Chips, and the McGibbon Hotel for providing Santa with the fuel he needed to call so many children.

Due to everyone's hard work, Santa was able to wish more than 1,000 kindergarten children and their families in Halton Hills a very Merry Christmas. All the best in the New Year.

Rick Chambers,  
Program co-ordinator

### Thanks for the good deed

Two weeks ago my wife left for work in Georgetown at her usual time on Saturday morning. Twenty minutes later I received a phone call asking if she was home.

I explained that she was at work and the caller told me he had found her wallet in the middle of the road. Concerned, I asked where he had found the wallet and as it turns out it was near her place of em-

ployment.

The finder told me he would happily walk it over to her and return it. I called my wife and told her to expect a visitor in the next few minutes bearing a gift.

True to his word he returned the wallet and all its contents.

Sir, you went above and beyond. It is truly refreshing to have crossed paths with a person of your calibre.

Thank you Mr. Bob Grasby.

Bill Ford  
Halton Hills

### Recycling idea abused

When our new community mailboxes were installed, the Town and Wastewise provided containers for the flyers and other papers we didn't want, thus saving our landfill site.

After a few months, they disappeared. Why? Because some people were putting their dog poop and garbage in them, when there were green barrels nearby for that too.

Thank you people for spoiling this profitable initiative.

June Longstreet  
Georgetown