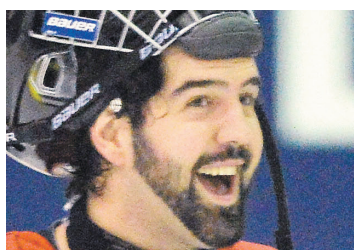




Artist is giving back to IAH
Health



Sledge hockey is a reason to smile
Sports

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Thursday, December 5, 2013 | 40 pages

A Publication of Metroland Media Group

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The corner of Trafalgar Road and Cross Avenue is one of the busiest in town. A big reason for that is its access to not only the major Trafalgar Road corridor, but also the Oakville GO Station where parking has consistently been increased, most recently with the addition of a new parking garage, seen in the background.

| photo by Eric Riehl- Oakville Beaver (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)

Congestion takes its toll on the bottom line

by Catherine O'Hara and David Lea
Metroland West Media Group

A sea of brake lights twinkles during evening rush hour. You've been on the road for 20 minutes, but have only inched your way to the next off ramp. The highway resembles a parking lot. There's no way you're going to make it home to catch the six o'clock news, let alone the arena to see your son score his first goal of the season. Frustration mounts.



Similar scenarios play out in communities across Halton, Hamilton and the GTA. Highways and arterial roads are gridlocked. Commuters are in a jam. Apart from being a headache for motorists, congestion can have serious implications for businesses.

Oakville Chamber of Commerce President John Sawyer said each year, gridlock damages the economy in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) to the tune of about \$6 billion.

see Moving on p.6

Weather for Oakville, ON

Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
0° - 2°	-2° - 4°	-2° - 6°	3° - 3°

It will soon be time to take the Dip

by Dennis Smith
Special to the Beaver

From Polar Bear (the human six-pack) to the large man dubbed Baby New Year, the Courage Polar Dip has inspired many.

"I see more costumes that day than I do around Halloween," said co-founder Todd Courage. "With that and the music playing, there's a carnival feeling in the air. It's a great atmosphere."

The local dip into Lake Ontario is a New Year's Day tradition in Oakville — and beyond — and the 29th annual swim is fast approaching.

Several hundred are expected to take the plunge from Coronation Park on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014.

Past dippers have included costume contest-winner Baby New Year and Polar Bear, a half-dozen guys who walk in dressed as a six-pack.

Organizers say dippers have included guys doing karate moves to brides and grooms renewing their vows.

see Polar on p.3

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