

# EDITORIAL

With Frances Learment

## Adversity generates good will

It never ceases to amaze that good almost always outweighs bad when emergencies like the pre-Christmas ice storm forces people to cope with the unexpected.

The stories of strangers opening their homes to those without heat and light, of meals cooked and delivered to cold, tired Halton Hills Hydro workers – and then to crews who arrived from near and far – were plentiful.

The bad stories were scarce, though some cretens stole generators from two Bell locations in Puslinch (hope they provided cold comfort.) The only safety incident for Halton Hills Hydro occurred Sunday afternoon when a contractor was bitten by a dog.

The damage to Halton Hills Hydro's 1,500-kilometres of wires was devastating and all 22,000 residential and 2,000 commercial/industrial customers were impacted – some for just a day, and some for eight days. Power was hopefully fully restored by press time Monday.

Mayor Rick Bonnette found no need to implement any emergency measures, even though the storm was a "major slap from Mother Nature." The warming centres and shelter handled those in need. He praised Public Works crews and firefighters with chain saws who helped with the cleanup.

There were no reported injuries related to the storm and its aftermath and for that we can be thankful. The danger from falling ice continues, so be cautious.

Happy New Year.



**BEAUTIFUL, BUT BITTER:** Halton Hills Hydro crews worked 16-hour shifts to restore power to its 22,000 residential and 2,000 commercial/industrial customers. The ice-laded trees were beautiful, but very dangerous. - Submitted photo

## Mayor's Corner

By Rick Bonnette



Every year Canada Post issues commemorative stamps. I have written to the Canada Post Stamp Advisory Committee asking that the "Georgetown Boys" be considered for a special stamp. The Georgetown Boys consisted of more than 100 Armenian orphans, mainly teen-aged boys who came to Canada to escape the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23. They came to Georgetown and worked on a local farm.

This was Canada's first ever international humanitarian effort of non-British Commonwealth refugees. The boys worked very hard making Canada their new home. Many enlisted with the Canadian Armed Forces fighting in the Second World War. They were Canadian heroes who died for our freedom. There have been books and even a play writ-

ten on the "Georgetown Boys". I would be nice to have a stamp honouring them. Federal M.P. Michael Chong has joined me and the Armenian community in this request.

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It looks like old man winter has an early start this year! Our staff will do their very best to ensure that the roads are maintained for our safety. Please be patient, as we have over 900 km of roads, 125 km of sidewalks and 25 municipal parking lots to maintain. The sequence of priority for roads is as follows: Regional, Arterial and Collector roads followed by local streets.

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For all of those Leaf fans, there is a special game on January 5, 2014. The Toronto Maple Leafs Alumni will be fa-

cing off against the Halton Hills Firefighters at Mold-Masters SportsPlex at 1:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to CASHh (Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills). CASHh. does wonderful work for the residents and families in our community who are battling cancer.

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I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and wish you all the best for the New Year!

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Congratulations to:  
- Skye's Fashion Jewelry on their recent opening in Acton  
- Solaris Tanning Studio on their recent opening in Georgetown - -- Eves Leaves on their recent opening in Georgetown

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Keeping it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342 or by email at mayor@haltonhills.ca or read my blog at www.rickbonnette.blogspot.com. You can also follow me on twitter at: @Rick-Bonnette!



**FEEDING THE WORKERS:** Thanks to the generosity of Acton residents, 55 hungry Halton Hills Hydro workers received a hot, nourishing meal on Boxing Day. HHH President and CEO Art Skidmore (left) and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette thanked lunch organizer Kathleen Dills. - Submitted photo



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373 Queen Street East, Unit 1  
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2  
email: [thenewtanner@on.aibn.com](mailto:thenewtanner@on.aibn.com)

(519) 853-0051 Fax: (519) 853-0052

**Publisher** Ted Tyler  
**Editor** Frances Learment

**Editorial Contributors**  
Angela Tyler

**Advertising and Circulation**  
Marie Shadbolt

**Composing** Traci Gardner, Iain Brennan  
**Typesetting** Melissa Paul

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