



MAYOR'S CORNER

The ice storm of 2013 certainly walloped Halton Hills. It couldn't have come at a worse time, as families were making last minute Christmas plans. At one point, everyone in Town was without power. Rural roads that I travelled looked like war zones. In Town, it was horrible to see so many trees on boulevards, in parks and on private property slumped over, badly damaged.

Staff from both Halton Hills Hydro and the Town worked long and tirelessly throughout the storm. This was a storm which many of us will be speaking of for years to come. This affected all of us and I'm very pleased at the way our community rallied together.

Throughout all of the devastation, we saw many countless acts of kindness. Late Christmas Eve, I visited the Gellert Community Centre which was designated as an evacuation centre. Volunteering organizations such as the Salvation Army and the Red Cross were helping residents at this time of need. The Acton Fire Station served as a warming centre. Our firefighters were great hosts, as well as other Town staff. I heard many stories of people

taking their neighbours into their own homes to help make them comfortable. Many people prepared and served hot meals to those in need; in addition to hydro crews working in difficult and frigid weather. Your town councillors were also very involved throughout the storm.

The many acts of kindness are yet another great example of small town living at its best. We will all learn from this experience. We will analyze how we responded and make necessary adjustments. I believe we are a stronger community as a result of this storm. Now more than ever is a good time to support our local businesses that were without power.

I invite everyone to come out to the Acton Winter Carnival on January 25 and 26 at Prospect Park in Acton. Lots of outdoor activities are being planned. This will be a lot of fun for the whole family; and it's free.

I would like to thank John McGhie and Ted Brown who have been a pleasure to work with over the years at *The Independent & Free Press*. I wish you both the best of luck in your future endeavours.

Congratulations to: One Life Family Chiropractic on their recent opening in Georgetown.

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: @RickBonnette!

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