

Town of Halton Hills designates warming centres

With the onset of colder temperatures, the Town of Halton Hills reminds residents that in the event the Region of Halton issues a "Cold Alert" or if you are suffering from the cold, the Town has designated warming centres throughout Halton Hills for your relief and safety.

These facilities will be open as places of comfort for persons seeking relief during normal hours of operation. Please call ahead or check the Town's website www.haltonhills.ca for detailed information including times and map location.

• **Mold-Masters Sports-Plex** – 221 Guelph Street, Georgetown

• **Acton Arena and Community Centre** – 415 Queen Street, Acton

• **Halton Hills Cultural Centre and Library (Georgetown Branch)** – 9 Church Street, Georgetown

• **Halton Hills Public Library (Acton Branch)** – 17 River Street, Acton

• **Halton Hills Civic Centre** – 1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown

• **Gellert Community Centre** – 10241 8th Line, Georgetown

For additional information, please call the Town

at 905-873-2601 ext. 2261.

"We want our residents to know that they have warm, safe places to go to escape from the cold when an alert is issued," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "We have been in touch with community service providers to inform them of the Town's Warming Centres as they deal first-hand with the people who may be most vulnerable".

Extreme Cold Weather Alerts are issued by the Halton Region Health Department when temperatures are expected to fall below -15 degrees Celsius (without wind-chill), or when weather conditions are severe enough to warrant alerting the community to the risks involved with prolonged exposure.

Anyone can be affected by extreme cold-related weather conditions, depending on length of time of exposure to cold and exertion levels. Those especially at risk include: older adults (over the age of 65), infants and young children, outdoor workers, sport enthusiasts (hikers, skiers), homeless persons, and/or those lacking shelter, proper clothing or food. During extreme cold, residents are encouraged to call or visit friends and neighbours who may

be at risk and keep pets inside.

The Region of Halton advises that to keep yourself, your family and your home safe, you should know how to prevent cold-related health injuries, avoid frozen plumbing in your home when extreme cold temperatures hit and be prepared if there is a cold weather emergency. You can avoid cold-related injuries by dressing appropriately and covering exposed skin. To protect your home, ensure you have good air circulation to all plumbing areas. Remember pipes can freeze when there is inadequate heat inside your home and the air temperature falls below zero. Open doorways to basement areas and crawl spaces enough to keep these areas warm. More tips to avoid frozen pipes can be found at halton.ca/frozenpipes.

In preparation for winter driving conditions, keep a car survival kit in your car at all times. This kit can include items such as: cell phone, blankets, booster cables, shovel, first aid supplies, flashlight and batteries, extra boots/socks, etc. A kit such as this can save your life or someone else's. Plan ahead and listen to the weather forecast.

Additional information, weather forecasts and wind-chill information can also be obtained from the Environment Canada website at www.weather.gc.ca.

For further information on extreme cold or to sign up for cold alert notifications, please visit halton.ca/cold or contact Halton Region by dialing 311.

George Elliot taking a break: Acton Citizen's Band auditioning new conductors

By: Harry Rudolfs

Long-serving bandmaster George Elliot is taking a leave of absence from the Acton Citizen's Band. "I'm going to take a month off," he said. "It's going to be an experiment to try out some other conductors."

The retired chemistry professor has been bandmaster for over 50 years. Elliot joined the band in 1941 while still a child, and began his stint as bandmaster in 1964.

The Acton Citizen's Band is both a marching and concert band, and the spry 88 year old maestro has no problem leading his group as they march in parades around town. But Elliot thinks it's important to identify an alternate leader who can take over when required.

"I'm getting old, and someday the band's going to have to make a choice," he said. "It's probably better now than later."

The Acton Citizen's

Band is a long-standing cultural institution, as old as the town itself. Historical records indicate that the first band was formed here in 1856. But the contemporary Citizen's Band can trace its roots back to 1872, when "the Music Man," Prof. J.W. Davey, came to town and began organizing a cornet band. Davey had already formed bands in Glen Williams and Georgetown.

Community bands were important for local identity in those days and many towns and hamlets had their own ensembles. The bands in Glen Williams and Georgetown are long gone, but the Acton band is a remnant of those times, and one of the few existing musical entities whose lineage goes back to the 19th century.

Presently numbering about 30 members, generations of townfolk have grown up with the Citizen's Band. Ted Tyler

was serving as president in 1964 when it was decided that the group needed its own building. According to Elliot, Tyler was instrumental in acquiring the lot on Wallace Ave. and overseeing the construction of the facility. The building serves as a practice hall and concert venue, and is also rented out during the week to defray expenses.

In her booklet, *Marching Down Mill Street*, Kay Dills reflects on some of the accomplishments of the Acton Citizen's Band. Besides performing at countless jamborees, tattoos, concerts, parades and church services, the group won first place at the Canadian National Exhibition band competition in 1947, and repeated as champions in 1973 and 1975.

The success and longevity of the organization is a testimonial to George Elliot as well, whose musical career is entwined with the Citizen's Band. And although he will be on hiatus for a month, he's still going to be busy with other band endeavours. Elliot has been a mentor to many band members over that years and he wants to continue in that capacity.

"I'm starting a new training group that will be practicing on Tuesday nights," he said. "I'll be working with beginners. It's important to get them marching at a young age. The older kids don't think marching is 'cool'. But if you start them as youngsters, they'll love it forever."




George Elliot - File photo

Acton Denture Clinic
Tracy Mitchell, DD

Not all dentures are created equal...

In my denture clinic I take pride in knowing and practising the latest Technologies in complete and partial Denture fabrication.

Call or make an appointment for a Consultation to discuss BPS Dentures.



MasterCard 130 Mill Street East, #103, Acton (519) 853-0079 VISA

What's Your Beef?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!
It's better than just chewing your cud!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.



World Religion Day

A prelude to February's United Nations **WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK**

Theme: **RELIGION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**
A Free Event with Guest Speakers from Different Faiths, Musical Entertainment and Refreshments.

DATE: **Sunday January 15, 2017**
TIME: **2-5 pm**
LOCATION: **Acton Public Library Limited Seating**

Hosted by the Baha'is of Halton

www.HaltonHillsBahais.org • www.MiltonBahais.org • www.BahaisofBurlington.org • www.BahaisofOakville.org