

# You are invited to get involved with Canada 150

By: Jane Dougan

Acton's Alex Hilson is one of Halton's Canada 150 Community Leaders along with Laurent Thibault and Connie Karlsson. Hilson works with many local organizations, most notably as one of the founders of the

youth-focused non-profit Inspire Halton. Minister of Canadian Heritage Melanie Joly established the municipal network to "build excitement for Canada 150 from coast to coast to coast." Four themes underpin the celebrations: diversity and

inclusion, young people, environment, and reconciliation efforts with Indigenous peoples. Hilson's nomination to Canada 150 was "a complete surprise. My areas of focus are youth, community, the arts and mental health; those are my four

'points of the compass.' The arts, music and dancing are all ways we can engage people to get out to Canada 150 community events." Hilson recognizes that "a lot of organizations already have their own initiatives" but sees part of his respon-

sibility as "making sure people know about them so they can join in." Given his keen interest in mental health—"Statistically, one in five Canadians suffer"—Hilson also hopes that "the connection and sense of community that will come with the sesquicentennial will help to alleviate people's feelings of pain

in isolation and allow them to connect with something both positive and bigger than themselves". The local Canada 150 Committee has an open invitation for anyone to get involved. Hilson invites those interested to contact him by telephone (519) 853-8273 or email alex@inspirehalton.ca.

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## Halton Regional Police reiterates commitment to Public Safety in wake of Quebec tragedy

In response to the recent hate-motivated violence in Quebec City, the Halton Regional Police Service is assuring members of the public that it stands united with those impacted by the tragedy and is committed to ensuring the safety of all community members.



To achieve this, the Service has a number of protocols in place to respond to a range of events that impact the security and well-being of those who live, work and visit Halton.

When the Quebec attack occurred, the response of the Halton Regional Police Service was immediate and far-reaching. Measures implemented at that time and which are ongoing include enhanced patrols of places of worship and personal outreach to members of the Region's

numerous faith communities.

As Chief Tanner states, "We continuously monitor serious events around the world such as the Quebec attack/shooting. We also review situations of elevated risk when notified of any change

to Provincial or National threat assessments. At this time there is no reason to believe there is an elevated public safety risk in Halton. That said, we will continue to monitor events locally and abroad and should a risk be identified, our response will be coordinated, scalable and meet the needs of those we serve."

For more information about the Halton Regional Service and its commitment to public safety, well-being, diversity and inclusion visit [www.haltonpolice.ca](http://www.haltonpolice.ca) under Community.

## Snow graces Winter Carnival

By: Les Schmidt

After last week's mild weather, organizers of Acton's Winter Carnival were happy for the cooler temperatures and to see some snow on the ground by last Sunday afternoon. While conditions were still somewhat less than ideal, most of the event's activities went ahead as planned at Prospect Park. Unfortunately, without the ice rinks there was no curling or public skating, however the hockey tournament went ahead as a ball hockey tournament on the field beside the rink.

Everyone took in the ice sculptures and demonstration. Younger ice enthusiasts, inspired by the ice sculptures tried their hand at the ice block building area. Active and agile carnival goers were challenged by the obstacle course organized by the Acton Scouts. The tractor and wagon rides were popular with families and groups, and kids loved the dog cart rides.

Sheena Switzer, Executive Director of the Acton BIA, commented that the weather always is a factor in the preparations and attendance at both the Carnival and the Chili



COOL FUN: Rose Morgan was having fun with the ice block building at Acton Winter Carnival on Sunday. - Les Schmidt photo

Cook-off. And while she felt the numbers were good at the Carnival, they seemed to be down slightly at the Chili Cook-off. When asked if she had any plans for changes next

year, she said, "We are definitely going to refresh the event next year! After six years, any event will have to find ways to be fresh and relevant. Our community will dictate what we add

or change about the event. We always value feedback and will be taking everything from past years into consideration. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details!"



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