

Significant investments required from the Provincial Government

The Provincial Places to Grow Act has mandated that Halton plan to grow to approximately one million people by 2041, imposing significant financial challenges on the Region. In order to meet this target while maintaining a high quality of life, building the necessary infrastructure and ensuring the financial integrity of the Region, significant investments from the provincial government must be made.

Premier Kathleen Wynne announced that she will refuse to give Toronto council permission to impose tolls on the two city-owned highways, the Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway, something that surrounding municipalities were not consulted on.

Municipalities only receive 11 per cent of every tax dollar paid. Halton Region continues to experience fund-

ing shortfalls in public health programs, including paramedic services. In total, this represents a funding shortfall of \$9.7 million in 2017. In addition, to responsibly and effectively support mandated growth, provincial funding investments are required. Municipalities do not have the adequate revenue tools to satisfy the "growth pays for growth" principle. As a result of these limitations, there is an estimated funding gap of \$14.1 million per year and combined, there exists a tax impact of 10 per cent on the Regional portion of property taxes to the residents of Halton.

"The province is presently breaking its agreement with Halton on what it is supposed to be funding in transfers," commented Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr. "If they don't provide sustainable funding that includes the cost

of growth, then Halton Region is not going to implement the Places to Grow Act, and we will refuse to increase growth in our region."

The Regional Municipality of Halton serves more than 500,000 residents in the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, and the Town of Oakville. Halton Region is committed to meeting the needs of its residents through the delivery of cost-effective, quality programs and services, including water and wastewater; Regional roads and planning; paramedic services; waste management; public health; social assistance; children's and seniors' services; housing services; heritage programs; emergency management and economic development.

For more information, dial 311 or visit Halton Region's website at halton.ca.

Air Cadets breakfast kicks off winter carnival

By: Harry Rudolfs

There's no better way to start the Acton Winter Carnival than with a pancake breakfast at the Acton Town Hall. That's exactly what the Parents' Sponsoring Committee of Acton Air Cadets 197 "Typhoon" Squadron supplied on Sunday morning, serving up more than 300 pancakes and

600 plus sausages.

This is the sixth year that the Air Cadets have been running the event. All the food and supplies were donated locally. This year's turnout was brisk and Karen Foley, chair of the Parents Sponsoring Committee, expected they would break last year's record of 163 customers.

The pancake break-

fast is one of a number of fundraising initiatives that the Cadets' sponsor, including Christmas tree sales and a bottle drive.

"We currently have a roster of 34 cadets and the numbers are growing," added Foley. This year the group is planning a trip to Ottawa to visit Parliament Hill, the Canadian Aviation Museum and the Diefenbunker.

ICE CULTURE: Gresham Bayley of Iceculture was on site Sunday at the Acton Winter Fair to demonstrate the art of ice sculpture in progress. Iceculture carvers work with a template but often add their own special touch as they go along. Gresham, for example, decided to give the Downtown Acton Maple Leaf "a bit of a wave at the top". The family-owned business in Hensall, Ontario was started by his father Julian 16 years ago, and has grown to become a recognized world leader in ice design. - Jane Dougan photo



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