

Fly your maple leaf flag proudly

By: Harry Rudolfs

Halton Hills's Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee is picking up steam with its "Fly Your Maple Leaf Flag" campaign. But did you ever wonder where the 10,000 flags for this event are originating?

They're being assembled in the basement and garage of Doug Rapien's Stone Age Estate bed and breakfast on the 9th Line by a team of dedicated volunteers.

"We had 16 people working on this for several hours last night and in that time we assembled

2,000 flags—that's a little better than 500 per hour," Rapien said.

The campaign was kicked off in February, but is going into high gear during the months of May and June. The idea is to get Halton Hills recognized as the most patriotic town in Canada by the number of flags

flying on July 1.

Rapien's group has churned out 8,000 flags so far, with more boxes ready to be shipped. Another 2,000 are waiting to be assembled. The promotion is offering flags for sale for \$2 each with a string of flags available for \$30.

Participants are asked to register their flags and location at haltonhillscanada150.ca



Doug Rapien

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Town of Halton Hills launches ROADS 2017

Starting this spring, select streets will benefit from road resurfacing and reconstruction. This construction project is known as ROADS 2017.

Each year, the Town's Pavement Management and Capital Works Program renews and improves roads across Halton Hills to keep them in peak condition. Work plans are developed on the basis of priority needs and leveraging construction efficiencies. In 2017, the program will focus on upgrading roads in Wards 1 and 2.

"The Town of Halton Hills is continuing its efforts to keep our roads in good repair," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "We know that each street construction project impacts area residents and businesses however the disruption is short-term while the results of ROADS 2017 will provide long-reaching improvements for years to come."

The following streets in Ward 1 will have road resurfacing completed this season, supervised and administered by Town staff:

- Burbank Street - Elmore Drive to End
- Elizabeth Drive - Main

Street North to Elmore Drive

- Elmore Drive - 80m South of Elizabeth Drive to Lakeview Avenue
- Tidey Avenue - Elizabeth Drive to Elmore Drive
- Tyler Avenue - Elizabeth Drive to Elmore Drive
- Main Street North (Hwy. 7) - St. Albans Drive to 500m North

Residents will experience some disruption during the road work. Anyone with concerns about dust, noise or other construction issues is asked to go to www.haltonhills.ca/roads to receive more information.

Should ROADS 2017 be delayed by factors such as weather, residents will receive a hand-delivered notice from the Town explaining the details of the delay.

"ROADS 2017 is the Town's infrastructure construction program for maintaining roads," said Chris Mills, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure. "It's our commitment to improving quality of life through the maintenance of infrastructure that addresses the needs of all users."

The Needle Gnome winding down after 25 years

By: Jane Dougan

Renata Georgeff started thinking about closing The Needle Gnome five years ago. "Now's the right time. I have my health and my energy, I want to hike and travel, there's a lot on my bucket list." The store will close over the next month; the website will offer mail-order sales while inventory remains.

Opening a needlecraft store was a dream ever since a grade seven home economics embroidery project blossomed into a lifelong love. Georgeff was working in the computer industry when the first small store opened on Main Street 25 years ago, after the family (husband Greg and son James) moved to Acton. "All we sold was stitchery. Without diversity, we weren't going to succeed so I started doing custom framing."

Ten years on they moved to the larger Mill Street location. "We added giftware and knitting, we ran classes, we had embroidery competitions, it evolved." Customers came from near and far; e.g. Brampton, Cambridge, Etobicoke, Guelph. "Young people are knitting now. Quite a



Store owner Renata Georgeff

few men are very good at stitchery. After 25 years, you get to know your customers. I'll miss not seeing them on a regular basis".

Renata would have liked the store to continue under new ownership but "it's a labour of love, it's not for profitability as a primary

income." The market is changing; hand-drawn designer patterns have given way to computer-generated patterns from scanned images. "You can get supplies online. It's hard to keep a physical store going with the overhead costs; heat, light, etc."

Renata won't be

stepping away from needlecraft or civic involvement. Next year she'll serve as President of the Guelph Embroidery Guild. She'll stay active with Knit Night at the Acton Public Library and "do volunteer work—now I'll have time to give back to the community."

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