



# Guess who is coming to town? Acton Santa Claus Parade

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LOCAL MOTION

**GROW YOUNGER**

CENTERGY

## Premier pays a visit to Acton Hub and McKenzie-Smith Bennett

By: Alex Hilson

Premier Kathleen Wynne visited McKenzie-Smith Bennett and the Acton Hub on Wednesday, November 8 along with the Hon. Indira Nadoo-Harris, MPP for Halton and Minister of the Status of Women, and other officials to learn about the Hub and the work it's done with Kindergarten students in Acton.

According to a release, the Premier launched the Community Hubs Ontario initiative in 2015 to "support community hubs and break down barriers that have limited their establishment and growth, all with the aim of continuing to build our communities".

The connection between the Acton Hub and the initiative was one reason for the visit. The other was work being done at the Hub.

In 2014, a committee at the Hub, chaired by Hub Coordinator, Alison Hilborn, was informed that a high number of children entering Kindergarten

were unprepared/vulnerable on one or more of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) domains. The team has since sought to positively impact the EDI data and educate families about how to prepare their kids for school. Almost 1,000 adults and children have attended their events in the past three years.

"I'm really happy to be here," said Wynne. "We're at McKenzie Smith Bennett School and we just had a wonderful hour or so in a full day Kindergarten class with Junior and Senior Kindergarten kids. And it was just a rich, lovely environment. The kids were having a great time and they're learning at the same time."

Nadoo-Harris added, "It was a fantastic way to spend the morning with those kids out there and just enjoying playing with them and reading to them. They really loved the Premier so it was a great way to spend the morning with kids who are clearly happy in the centre they're in."



READING TIME: Premier Kathleen Wynne took time during her visit to the Acton Hub in order to read to children from McKenzie-Smith Bennett's Kindergarten. - Alex Hilson photo



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