

## OUR VIEW

# If you shop till you drop, please do it locally

As the local paper of record, we encourage residents who are spending money this Black Friday to make sure their dollars stay close to home.

Now more than ever, local retailers, car dealers, specialty shops, services and restaurants, to name but a few, need consumers to open their wallets here in Halton Hills.

Our local economy is no longer as strong as it once was and local retailers are placing their hopes on a good holiday shopping season.

We can't let them down during the upcoming Black Friday and Christmas seasons.

Price Waterhouse Cooper Canada (PWC) predicts that eight out of 10 Canadians will spend the same as last year, but in the online space, 77 per cent of Canadians plan to shop at the world's biggest online retailer - Amazon.

PWC also predicts that 58 per cent of Canadians will shop locally - not great odds if you run a mom and pop shop.

While shopping, you can pause for a while at a café or restaurant.

You can take in old-fashioned Christmas displays and appreciate storeowners who are proud of the goods they sell and who spend time intelligently answering customers' questions.

By spending your hard-earned dollars locally, you are helping to keep the town running smoothly. The economic spin-offs are tremendous.

There are so many unique gift ideas hidden in the stores and galleries of Halton Hills.

So if you do plan to shop till you drop, at least keep the money in our community. After you are done your shopping, don't forget to put a local restaurant on your shopping list.

And before we forget, when you are out shopping, don't forget the local charities that need assistance.

Set aside some extra dollars - or spend less - and give generously to all the groups and organizations that work so hard to ensure everyone has a happy Christmas.

However, in small towns citizens bemoan losing a sense of community as online stores and big box retailers gain market share at the expense of pushing independent retailers out of business.

A community looks after its own, and that includes retailers.

Happy shopping!



## ABOUT US

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**The Independent & Free Press**

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## LETTERS &amp; COMMENTARY

## Operation Red Nose Halton axed due to lack of volunteers

Over the past several weeks, the citizens of Halton Hills have been introduced to Operation Red Nose - Halton Hills, a "designated driver program" designed to reduce impaired driving in Halton Hills during the Christmas Festive Season.

A call to Operation Red Nose would result in the dispatch of a team to pick up the caller and their vehicle and drive them safely from local festivities to their home.

The program is run entirely by volunteers, consisting of citizens of Halton Hills. A great effort has been made to find sponsors

and attract volunteers.

A program such as this cannot operate without the support of local government - the Town of Halton Hills, Halton Regional Police Service and local businesses and associations such as Georgetown Kia, Georgetown Toyota, GBA Chartered Accountants, the Independent Free Press, Georgetown Chrysler, Emerald Isle Home Furnishings, the Copper Kettle, Jonesy's Sports Hub and Grub, the Label Factory, the Red Harp Pub, Georgetown B2C, Mike Kraus ReMax and the Lions and Rotary clubs, who have responded to help underwrite the cost of operation.

Due to a later than anticipated program launch and the heavy volunteer commitment required, we have fallen short in our efforts

to attract volunteers in sufficient numbers to run the program effectively and therefore, we must advise that Operation Red Nose - Halton Hills will not operate this year.

Organizers wish to thank all supporters, sponsors and citizens for their interest, and encourage everyone to use a designated driver if you have been celebrating this Christmas Season.

Please don't drink and drive.

Tom Money,  
 Operation Red Nose

## Even opinions should be based on facts

I don't understand why you would publish the anti-Liberal rant by Kerri Chaplin last week.

It doesn't reference substantive reasons why she doesn't like Kathleen Wynne or the Liberals but claims corruption under the veil of secrecy.

She even concludes with a charge of secrecy against her municipal government with no examples. It's fine for her to have her opinions and I can sympathize with someone who fears censure from her in-group or wants extra points for her favour.

But the newspaper has no business in propagating unsubstantiated claims like this. Actually, it's simply slander. It's vague, partisan and narrow thinking like this that fuels conspiracy theories, the bane of our times, and your newspaper should not be complicit.

Rick Hall,  
 Halton Hills

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