

# Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce hosts first 'Politics Unplugged' event

By: Vivien Fleisher

Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce chair Melanie Frazer kicked off what was billed as their first "Politics Unplugged" event at the North Halton Golf Club on January 18. Aimed at business owners, the Chamber wanted to know what was keeping owners up at night and in a panel discussion using a question and answer format, two familiar faces from

Wellington-Halton Hills, MP Michael Chong, and MPP Ted Arnott, fielded over two dozen questions from an audience of about 50 people. The event was not meant to be political according to Chamber general manager Kathleen Dills. Neither speaker made an opening statement, and although you can't keep a good politician down, they stuck to the productive goals of the evening. The first question

asked was how has the business landscape changed in Halton? Chong responded that Toronto was no longer far away and the major growth the town has experienced has made congestion a major challenge. Arnott reflected that in his early years in office, Canada was in a deep recession well into the mid-1990's, which eased off but resurfaced in 2009. He felt that technology and auto-

mation have changed the scene profoundly, but growth remained the number one challenge as well.

Conversation inevitably turned to a handful of hot button topics. First and foremost was the minimum wage Bill 148. The topic led to Chong's repeated calls for major tax reform in Ontario, while Arnott denounced Premier Wynne's too-much-too-soon "left wing agenda"

which he flatly stated was a bid to attract NDP voters ahead of this year's election. He hinted that if the PC's win in June, they'll look at phasing in the remaining one-dollar hike over four years.

Amazon's shortlisting of Toronto for their next location was also a hot topic, with Chong convinced Ontario's high corporate tax was a detriment. But the announcement was fresh,

and optimism was high in the room regardless. Arnott said jobs of the future are in high tech, and Halton Hills is right in that corridor.

Rural internet access was also high on the list. Chong dispelled the idea that it was largely a "northern issue", saying it's the equivalent of the telephone today, and should have been treated as such, an "essential utility" in the new economy.



## PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT, PART A ROAD RESURFACING WARD 1, ACTON

The Town of Halton Hills is planning to perform improvements to the following streets starting in the spring of 2018:

Street	Road Span	Type of Work
Jeffrey Avenue	Elizabeth Drive to Elmore Drive	Road Resurfacing
Nelson Court	Tyler Avenue to End	Road Resurfacing
School Lane	Main Street North to End	Road Reconstruction

You are invited to attend a Public Information Centre to learn about the planned construction and discuss any concerns you may have with representatives from the Town of Halton Hills. This Public Information Centre will be an informal meeting and you are invited to drop in at your convenience between the noted hours.

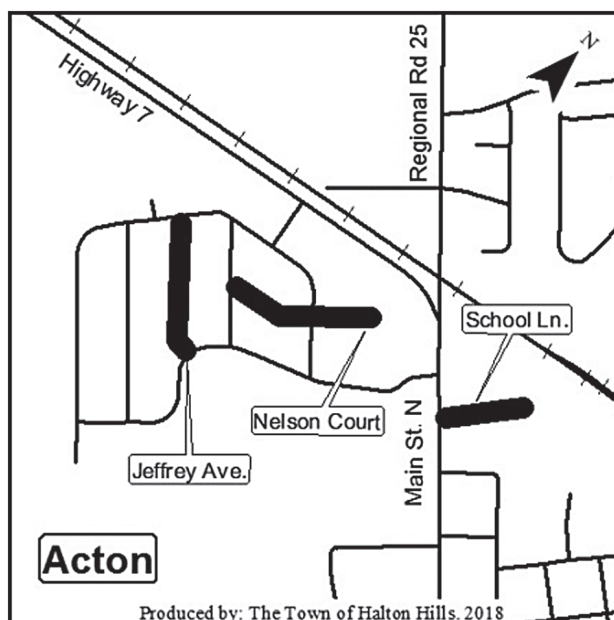
The Public Information Centre is scheduled for:

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 31, 2018  
**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Halton Hills Public Library  
 - Acton Branch  
 Acton Library Meeting Room  
 17 River Street  
 Acton ON L7J 1C2

Please advise the contact below as soon as possible, if you may have an accessibility or accommodation requirement at the Public Information Centre.

If you are unable to attend this Public Information Centre and wish to obtain more information or provide written comments, please contact:

**Mrs. Teri Hoey, C.E.T.**  
 Supervisor of Construction  
 Tel: 905-873-2601 ext. 2309  
 Fax: 905-873-8192  
 Email: [terih@haltonhills.ca](mailto:terih@haltonhills.ca)



Produced by: The Town of Halton Hills. 2018

## 10<sup>th</sup> annual free skate

Families and community members enjoyed the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Free Family Skating Event last Sunday afternoon hosted by Ted and Lisa Arnott at the Acton Arena. - Les Schmidt photos



1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2

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