

# MAYOR'S CORNER



By: Rick Bonnette

Happy New Year and welcome to 2018!

I would like to express on behalf of Council my sincerest congratulations to The Tanner as it celebrates its 20th anniversary of covering every day news and events that mean a lot to Acton and area residents. The Tanner is another reason why Halton Hills is small town living at its best!

Join me on Saturday February 24 for a free family skate from 2:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. at the Acton Arena, Townsley Rink. See you there!

On Sunday, February 25, please join me at our new venue Champs Family Entertainment Centre in Milton for my annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake Challenge! The action starts at 1p.m. to 3 p.m.—registration at 12:30 p.m. Together, let's STRIKE IT BIG for our kids in Halton Hills!

Visit the website: halton.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/event/bowl-kids-sake/ for further information.

\*\*\*\*  
 Congratulations to Jordan Stott who was named to the Canadian Lifesaving Team Canada after an outstanding performance at the Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships in June 2017. Halton Hills is proud of your accomplishment!

\*\*\*\*  
 Congratulations to Halton Crime Stoppers on their 30th anniversary. The valuable work performed by this organization supports all of our efforts to keep the Town of Halton Hills a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

This year Crime Stoppers message of "SEE Something? HEAR Something? KNOW Something? CONTACT Crime Stoppers." is particularly relevant to our community which prides itself on a high quality of life supported by engaged and aware residents.

Throughout the years, callers to Halton Crime Stoppers have provided tips anonymously that have led to the solving of homicides, break-ins, assaults, sexual attacks, animal abuse and

robberies in Halton Region.

There are three ways to submit anonymous tips:

- 1-800-288-TIPS (8477) – calls are not displayed, traced or tracked
- text CRIMES (274637) your text is encrypted to protect your identity
- visit the website: haltoncrimestoppers.ca/submit\_tip.php

You could be rewarded up to \$2,000 if your tip leads to an arrest.

\*\*\*\*  
 Congratulations to Halton Women's Place on 40 years of providing the necessary programs and services including the crisis line and outreach programs along with shelter for women and families in our community. We are so proud to work together in ending violence against women.

\*\*\*\*  
 Keeping it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342 or by email at mayor@haltonhills.ca or read my blog at www.rickbonnette.blogspot.com. You can also follow me on twitter at: @RickBonnette1

# Halton Hills launches two new websites

By: Vivien Fleisher

Describing the town's new website as "significantly improved", Communications Manager Alexandra Fuller announced that the site went live at 8 a.m. February 5, and was the culmination of an extensive, collaborative effort amongst staff and council. But the start point for the overhaul and redesign was the question "what does the resident want?" and part of that answer was: less. Content was cut down to less than 300 pages from 800, edited and updated, while other features like "smarter search" and "better navigation" made for a cleaner, clearer site, the importance of which was underlined by Fuller's characterization of the town website as their primary communication vehicle between residents and the Town of Halton Hills. Councillors Lewis and Albano both praised the clean, less crowded look.

Next, Economic Development officer Cassandra Baccardax gave council a preview of the town's new 'economic development' website, set to go live on February 12. This site is now a stand-alone from

provincial and federal priorities. The \$20,000 budget is offset by half via funding from the federal government, with the town portion coming from last year's budget. Priority was given design-wise to a modern

look, including a new logo that's a sleeker variation of the town logo. The partnership between Halton Hills and sister-city Wenjiang, China figures strongly in this initiative, while providing a go-to site for businesses in both countries and elsewhere to foster communication and attract business to the town. There's even a

**Specific improvements include:**

- Smarter search capabilities
- Modern imagery and embedded video
- A new, easy-to-use calendar format
- Updated and reorganized content

the main town site and exists to "encourage foreign direct investment flow into Halton Hills." It aligns with several regional plans: Council's Strategic Plan; the Community Sustainability Strategy; the Mayor's Community Energy Plan; the Economic Development Strategy; HHCEC's business interests; and

map on the website showing where Halton Hills is situated in the world, illustrating a much bigger emphasis on all forms of investment that "originate outside of Halton Hills—regionally, provincially, nationally or internationally", supporting one of the town's key sustainability pillars: economic prosperity.

# Purse thefts at Georgetown grocery stores

Halton Regional Police are warning people to be vigilant when shopping at grocery stores in light of two separate incidents on Friday evening in Georgetown.

At around 6 p.m., a couple were grocery shopping together at the Food Basics store on Guelph Street. When the couple turned their backs on their shopping cart for just a few moments, a female suspect removed the lady's purse from the cart and depart-

ed the store. The theft was caught on cctv cameras.

Shortly thereafter, the same suspect and another female committed a similar theft at the Freshco store down the street. This duo may be part of an organized group that victimizes shoppers.

Suspect No. 1 is described as female, olive complexion, 25 to 30 years old, 5'8, average weight and build, black hair pulled back into a bun or ponytail, round face,

dark jacket, jeans.

Suspect No. 2 is female, olive complexion, older—maybe 60 years—5'8, heavy weight and build, dark hair, thinner face, dark knee length jacket, blue heavy scarf wrapped around head and neck, dark pants, carrying a reusable shopping bag.

Video surveillance has

been obtained to aid in the investigation, identification and possible arrest of the two thieves.

When shopping, do not leave purses, wallets, cell phones or any other valuable items unattended with your shopping cart. If such thefts are observed, please call 9-1-1 to report the crime as "in-progress".

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