

# Halton Hills residents and emergency services weather ice storm

By: Harry Rudolfs

Halton Hills residents hunkered down on Friday as a massive three-day storm system approached. Residents, still mindful of the devastating ice storm of 2013, stocked up on food and flashlight batteries as freezing rain, high winds and ice pellets moved into the area.

According to Art Skidmore, CEO of Halton Hills Hydro, "We were very fortunate to receive ice pellets instead of

freezing rain. We received a few hours of freezing rain on Sunday evening that coated the wires, but it wasn't enough to bring them down."

Skidmore said that there were only a few power failures affecting less than 100 people. "We were fully prepared and had staff ready to come in if they were needed," he said.

"We were quiet the whole weekend," added Deputy Fire Chief Harry Olivieri. He's also Senior Management Planning

Coordinator for Halton Hills. "We were fully on top of it starting on Friday afternoon. We have an emergency plan in place and the planning committee had meetings over the weekend. We had no incidents of any significance, at least in Halton Hills."

Olivieri credits effective use of social media to inform the public and to ask them to avoid unnecessary travel. "People heeded the advice and stayed home," he said. "It helped a lot so our crews could get their

business done."

Residents stepped up to clear slush from sidewalks and drains. Halton Hills Fire Department asked people via Twitter to keep catch basins free to avoid flooding. Mayor Rick Bonnette responded, also via Twitter, "I just cleared 3 catch basins in my neighbourhood. Harder than it looks as the ice layered underneath the snow."

Halton Police also went to Twitter as the storm approached and

asked people to stay off the roads. "This reached 25,000 people," according to Constable Jackie

Brennan. "As a result, we did not see an increase... in traffic-related weather calls for service."



- Les Schmidt photos



TASTY DONATION: Samantha Genzler (left), Sarah Cinese, Rachel Bochner from Acton presented Julie Little of Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CASHh) with \$455 they raised selling baked goods on Saturday, April 7. - Submitted photo



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