

High on Hadfield

He has 728,000-plus Twitter followers and provided more than 4,600 fascinating Tweets that include incredible photos of Mother Earth.

He has opened the eyes and broadened the minds of countless people by making space travel seem accessible to everyone.

He is a media darling, ready and willing to discuss the passion he has for his current job as commander of the International Space Station.

Canadian astronaut and Milton native Chris Hadfield is our modern-day Galileo using social media to educate his legion of fans. To say the world is his classroom is a great understatement. He has linked to schools across Canada including right here in Halton. Hadfield has given new meaning to the word Skype.

The 53-year-old space commander has found a way to make his time spent orbiting the Earth seem almost as ordinary as working in an office. His Tweets are thought-provoking, sometimes tinged with sadness, insightful and, at times, humorous.

- *Good Morning, World, and Happy Earth Day from orbit! One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.* Apr 21.

- *Good Morning, Earth! Up early on a Saturday to change out EarthKam batteries. Think I'll go for a run: About 20,000 km ought to do it :)* Apr 26

- *Sorry for the slow Tweeting today, we've had computer server troubles, but the fine folks at NASA JSC Houston just got it fixed!* Apr 27

And on April 15, Hadfield snapped a shot of a city in mourning.

- *Tonight's Finale: A somber Spring night in Boston,* he wrote.

On Monday, May 6 Hadfield will be participating in Music Monday, Canada's annual celebration of music education. History will be made with a live concert linking students across the country with Hadfield aboard the space station. Now that's hitting a high note.

Thank you Commander Hadfield for allowing us a chance to 'orbit' alongside you. By reaching out to the 'regular earthlings' you have given us a wondrous peek at our planet and at the human spirit.

WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to www.theifp.ca)

Which Canadian team will survive the longest in the NHL playoffs?

- Montreal Canadiens (36%)
- Toronto Maple Leafs (28%)
- Vancouver Canucks (25%)
- Ottawa Senators (11%)

The Independent & Free Press

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Steve Nease

Letters to the editor

Region's bin day well-organized

Dear editor,
On March 30 Halton Region offered a free recycle bin pick-up at the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre on Trafalgar Rd.

There were tons of cars pulling in and I thought, this is going to take all day. There was a police officer directing traffic in and out (which helped) then there were Region employees directing the traffic all the way to the back, all saying good morning and waving to me.

Within five minutes I was at the head of the line where I was directed to one of four drive-thru lanes.

I couldn't believe it. I pulled up and they asked if I needed a Green-cart as well as the blue recycle bin (which I did). They even put it into my car for me.

Much to my surprise I was in and out of there within seven minutes.

The whole event was very well

organized. I would like to say thank you and hats off to all the friendly staff who were there that day.

Kim McAnuff, Georgetown

'Van-tastic' kindness

Dear editor,

A couple of weekends ago my husband and I purchased a new fireplace at Canadian Tire in Georgetown.

My husband and the sales associate struggled to get it into our car and were met with little success. We had no idea what we were going to do to get it home.

Out of nowhere a perfect stranger approached us in the parking lot. Without hesitation, he offered to take the fireplace to our house for us in his van. I was speechless at his generous offer and my husband gratefully accepted.

It is so nice to see that there are such wonderful people in the world. We recognize how selfless his act was and fully intend to "pay it forward" and keep this spirit of good deeds going.

Trevor & Nicole Brodie, Georgetown

CASHh says thanks

Dear editor,

Cancer Assistance Services-Halton Hills (CASHh) thanks you, our hundreds of dedicated volunteers who gave selflessly of their time canvassing door to door, delivering flyers on foot and handing out pamphlets informing the community of the services offered by CASHh.

I would also like to thank *The Independent & Free Press* advertising and editorial staff for giving me added voice to reach the public via letters to the editor and the community calendar notices.

Above all, a HUGE thank you and hats off to you, the wonderful community of Halton Hills for your generous donations and support of our Residential Campaign.

We couldn't have done it without your help. You are truly amazing!

Betty Fendley,
Campaign Manager,
CASHh

905-873-0301

Publisher: Dana Robbins

General manager: Steve Foreman

(sforeman@theifp.ca)

Retail advertising manager: Cindi Campbell

(ccampbell@theifp.ca)

Managing editor: John McGhie

(jmcghie@theifp.ca)

Distribution manager: Nancy Geissler

(ngeissler@theifp.ca)

Classifieds

Kristie Pells

(classified@theifp.ca)

Accounting

Rose Marie Gauthier

Editorial

Cynthia Gamble: News editor

(cgamble@theifp.ca)

Ted Brown: Photography

(tbrown@theifp.ca)

Lisa Tallyn: Staff writer

(ltallyn@theifp.ca)

Eamonn Maher: Staff writer/sports

(emaher@theifp.ca)

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Email:

jmcghie@theifp.ca

Mail or drop off:

Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, ON, L7G 4B1.