

# Town plans cleanup day in March

By **LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette thanked Halton Hills Hydro workers and Town staff for all of their hard work following last month's ice storm at a recent Council meeting.

"We saw countless acts of kindness from our community" said Bonnette. "There were numerous stories of people taking in their neighbours for days."

He also recognized area residents and churches that brought food to residents without power and hydro workers, and organized community dinners.

"I would like to thank Halton Hills for its patience and strength," said Bonnette.

The Mayor said he had received calls from people interested in helping with the cleanup of downed tree branches in the yards of seniors or those in ill health who can't do it themselves or afford to get assistance.

"I'm hoping to get the community mobilized to help in the springtime to get to the backyards," said Bonnette.

## Town urges caution in parks and on trails

While the Town has not taken the step to formally close all parks across the Town, they strongly urge residents to avoid areas that were impacted by the storms.

"Trails do not receive regular winter maintenance under normal circumstances," said Terry Alyman, Director of Recreation and Parks. "Given the current state of most natural areas we are recommending residents avoid the use of damaged areas for the time being. Trails have been marked as 'Closed' until further notice."

Regular winter programs that have been impacted by the storm include maintenance of the natural outdoor

rinks and weekly garbage collection. Maintenance of the outdoor rinks at Georgetown Fairgrounds and Prospect Park, Acton are currently open, subject to any future weather events.

Town staff continue to address the conditions that are the most risk to residents and public property. Cemeteries and major parks are the first priority. Residents may report hazards they observe in parks by calling Public Works at 905-873-2601, extension 2603.

However, due to the volume of calls, residents are encouraged to report via e-mail at [stormdamage@haltonhills.ca](mailto:stormdamage@haltonhills.ca).

He said he would like to get area youth involved and anyone handy with a chainsaw who would like to volunteer.

A tentative day of Saturday, March 29 has been set, but he said it could also span a couple of weeks.

Bonnette said churches are interested in helping out and

he has sent letters to them asking for volunteers.

Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact their church if they are a member of one, or Nancy Surette of the Town of Halton Hills at 905-873-2601 ext. 2340 or email at [nancys@haltonhills.ca](mailto:nancys@haltonhills.ca)



## HHFD honors its retirees

Among the six retirees, three were present for the Halton Hills Fire Department's annual Recruit Graduation, Medal and Awards, retirement ceremony at Acton (District One) Firehall Wednesday night. In front, Firefighter Tony Paiva, Lieutenant Joel Glaude and Captain Doug Andrews (in back) assembled for a photo. Retiring firefighters are presented with their helmets upon retiring from the department. Check out all the photos of this event at [www.theifp.ca/photos](http://www.theifp.ca/photos).

Photo by Ted Brown

## Strachan says change could be 'huge'

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But Oakville trustee Kathryn Bateman-Olmstead said she wasn't sure if the change in distance would make a big difference.

Halton Hills trustee Alice Strachan, chair of the board's transportation committee, countered by saying committee members have been told the 800-metre difference between the current and possibly new

walk-to distances would be considered "huge" and have particular impact on certain geographical areas.

Strachan said in a later interview that part of the rationale for considering a switch in the distance threshold for busing is the safety of stu-



**ALICE STRACHAN**

dents on some walking routes that fall between 3.2-4km.

An HSTS study on walk-to distances also would look at harmonizing the transportation policy for French immersion students with the policy for English-instruction students.

The Halton Catholic board will address the issue of a feasibility study when the HSTS board of directors meets next on Feb. 4.

## Acton men facing charges

Two Acton males are facing charges after being tracked by a Halton Regional Police K-9 team early Sunday.

Police responded to an alarm call at the LCBO on Queen St. E. in Acton at 3:30 a.m. Officers found a smashed window with several broken bottles of alcohol on the store floor. The K-9 team of Const. Tara McLorn and police dog Parker were called to assist and tracked footprints and a strong scent to a nearby ravine. The track took 35 minutes, and

covered more than 2 km through an ice-storm ravaged area, strewn with tree debris. The track led police to a nearby apartment building and two suspects who had a stolen bottle of alcohol were arrested without incident.

Charged with break and enter and theft under \$5,000 is Thomas Gendron, 23, of Acton. Also, a 17-year-old Acton male, who cannot be identified under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, is charged with break and enter and theft under \$5,000.

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