

OPINION

Enjoy our town

This is a prime weekend in Halton Hills to create some memories, whether it's with dad on his special day on Sunday or with the whole family.

Halton Hills will be playing host to a number of festivals and events that will keep everyone entertained.

There's the 39th annual Georgetown Highland Games, which is a treat for all ages. While you are in the downtown area, stop by the Village Festival and the Georgetown Farmers' Market. As well, it's Bike-it-to-the Market day when all members of the family can bicycle safely to the Village Festival/Market and enjoy a quality family time.

On Sunday, Riverfest-Norval returns after a hiatus and helps mark the 40th anniversary of the Norval Community Association. Another longstanding tradition also occurs on Sunday, Classics Against Cancer.

Read about all these events in this week's edition of *The Independent & Free Press*. Then go out, enjoy what your community has to offer.

Volunteers organize and run these special offerings. So remember to thank them when you see them. Events like these demonstrate what a great community we live in.

Vote today

Have you voted today? Polls for the provincial election do not close until 9 p.m. today. Don't know where to vote? Go to www.wemakevotingeasy.ca to find your poll as well as other election info.

The future of Ontario is decided today—be a part of it.

WEB POLL RESULTS (Go to www.theifp.ca)

Do you plan to vote in the June 12 election?

Yes, it's a privilege (79%)
No, can't be bothered (21%)

The Independent & Free Press

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Letters to the editor

Region working to minimize litter on windy days

Thank you to Nancy Davison for her comments regarding recyclable material in her letter to the editor — Blown recyclables quite an eyesore.

We understand her concerns with respect to blowing recycling materials throughout her neighbourhood. There are a number of ways Halton Region has been working to help reduce litter on windy days in addition to encouraging residents to also do their part to help address this issue.

Residents can help minimize Blue Box litter during windy weather by considering the weather conditions on their waste collection day, and packing the Blue Boxes accordingly. By keeping recyclables below the rim of the Blue Box, flattening cardboard, squeezing down cans

and cartons and placing heavier items such as phone books, cardboard and magazines on top of loose materials, residents help prevent the wind from catching them.

Blue Boxes are to be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. the morning of the collection day and are best not to be placed out during windy weather the night before. If it's an extremely windy day, depending on the volume of recycling material, residents can also wait until their next collection day.

Last year, Halton Region started providing taller Blue Boxes to residents to help reduce wind-blown litter. Blue Box material remains the responsibility of the homeowner until the material is collected. If a Blue Box blows over, it's the responsibility of the homeowner to clean up their material as best they can.

Halton Region asks residents to not place recycling material in plastic bags as they are problematic at the recycling processing facility, causing equipment

break downs and delays.

Although there are no fully reliable cost-effective tools that can completely eliminate litter on windy days, Regional staff continue to investigate and evaluate other methods and systems to work toward minimizing litter from the Blue Box program.

Halton Region will continue to raise awareness with residents as much as possible about ways to reduce litter as a result of inclement weather. By working together, we all have a role to play to help address this issue and keep our communities clean.

Rob Rivers,
Director of waste
management services
Halton Region

Letters policy

Letters must include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 150 words and may be edited for content and/or length. Publication is not guaranteed.

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