

OPINION

Shop local

We, as the local community voice, are encouraging residents who are spending money this Christmas to make sure their dollars stay close to home.

Now more than ever, local retailers, car dealers, specialty shops, services and restaurants, to name but a few, need consumers to open their wallets here in Halton Hills.

Our local economy is no longer as robust as it once was and local retailers are placing their hopes on a good holiday season.

We can't let them down during the upcoming Christmas season.

While shopping, you can pause awhile at a café or restaurant.

You can take in old-fashioned Christmas displays and appreciate store owners who are proud of the goods they sell and who spend the necessary time intelligently answering customers' questions.

By spending your hard-earned dollars here you are helping to keep the town running smoothly.

The spin-off effects are tremendous.

There are so many unique gift ideas hidden in the stores and galleries of Halton Hills.

According to The New Economics Foundation, an independent economic group based in London, when you shop local twice the cash stays in the community.

After you are done your shopping, don't forget to put a local restaurant on your shopping list.

And before we forget, when you are out shopping, don't forget the local charities that need assistance.

Set aside some extra dollars — or spend less — and give generously to all the groups and organizations that work so hard to ensure everyone has a happy Christmas.

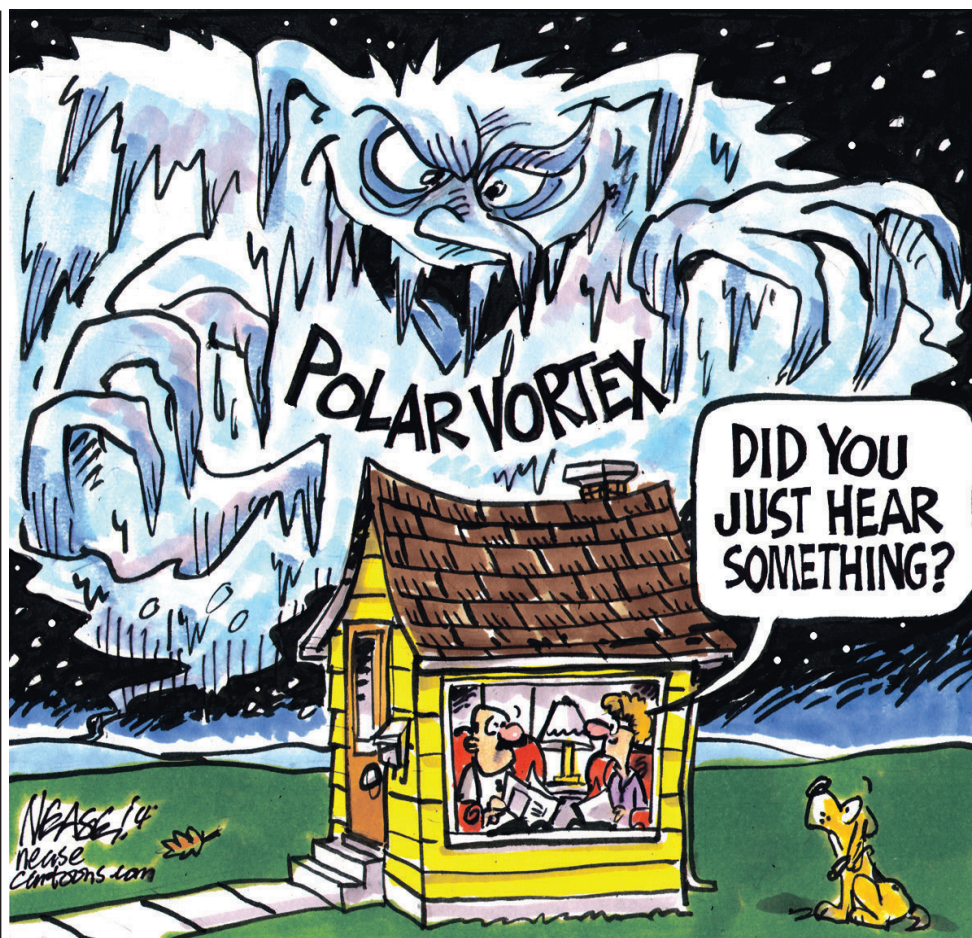
WEB POLL RESULTS (Go to www.theifp.ca)

- What do you do to honour Remembrance Day?
- All of the above (49%)
 - Wear a poppy (18%)
 - Spend a minute in silence on Nov. 11 at 11 am (16%)
 - Nothing — it's not that important (13%)
 - Attend a Remembrance service (4%)

The Independent & Free Press

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Letters to the editor

Our residents are the best

Georgetown residents should be proud of our community's response to a need.

Our church men's ministry became aware of someone we wanted to help. Long story shortened — a local middle-aged woman had need of regular transport to her job in Georgetown South and her problem hips prevented her from biking.

Our group, Anvil Ministry for Men, decided to help her by way of raising some cash through a garage sale in our church parking lot (Georgetown Christian Fellowship).

An email to *The Independent & Free Press* which described our project was published and brought in a flood of calls from the community who seemed happy to help.

Because people were generous in their donating, we exceeded our sale goals.

Some highlights include a business owner who upped our project

goal from a gas-motored bike assist to a more 'proper' scooter by promising some financial assistance.

Someone from the Norval United Church gave us a very generous donation from their church Outreach Committee.

Some of the donors turned out to be garage sale buyers as well, who further helped our cause.

We were able to see first-hand our community coming together for a good cause. We want to thank all of you for your support.

Mark Howson,

ANVIL resource co-ordinator

MaRS project: A different perspective

Re: MaRS more Liberal red ink

With only four months since Ontarians gave our Liberal government a four-year mandate, Mr. (Ted) Arnott (MPP Wellington-Halton Hills)

is ambitious in trying to convince us that we made the wrong choice. His account of the MaRS project starkly contrasts the recent third-party report (Ernst&Young) stating that the "fair market value of the MaRS Phase 2 Project is at minimum equal to, and could exceed, the total amount invested to date by the Government".

In his role as Critic, Mr. Arnott has a choice between offering destructive criticism or constructive criticism. I suspect that the chances of seeing him or his party ever offer constructive criticism are about the same as our chances of finding life on that red planet.

Dan Zister

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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