

Somerville helps launch FCM's Hometown Proud campaign

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

Hometowns matter.

That's the message that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is hoping to get out through the launch of its Hometown Proud Campaign (#HOMETOWNPROUD campaign).

With a federal election expected next year FCM wants to make local issues a central theme in the election platform of all candidates and parties. The aim of the campaign is to drive home the importance of hometowns by initiating a nation-wide conversation about local issues.

Halton Hills residents are encouraged to take part by visiting hometownproud.fcm.ca, signing up and sharing their stories and photos about Halton Hills for a chance to win two tickets to bring someone home to town for a visit.

Halton Hills Regional Councillor and 2nd Vice President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Clark Somerville says everyone has a story to tell about how their hometown has made their life a little bit better.

"I know that residents care about our community and everything it has to offer," said Somerville. "Where else would you see the community come together to celebrate our recent Santa Claus parades, fall fairs and Terry Fox Runs?"

"Cities and communities like ours drive Canada's economy; they are the hubs of environmental and social innovation, and improve the quality of life for all Canadians. Here in Halton Hills we have every



Regional Councillor Clark Somerville tweeted this photo of himself holding the #HOMETOWNPROUD sign.

reason to be proud of our community."

He said the FCM initiative is a broad-based engagement campaign with all Canadians, inviting them to share in words and pictures why they value their hometowns. From local hockey teams, to arts festivals to public parks he said Canadians are showing that hometowns matter.

"I decided to share a short story on the recent Halloween downtown walk for children to show my hometown pride," said Somerville.

Somerville said "this is just the start of the conversation."

"The end goal is building a stronger Canada and that starts in our hometowns," said Somerville.

Halton Regional Council calls for Fair Trade Practices

Halton Regional Council unanimously voted on Nov. 19 to support a resolution calling on all municipalities to express support for free, fair and reciprocal trade between the United States and Canada and the principle that any restrictive 'Buy American' provisions are contrary to the spirit of free trade.

"Canada is the United States' largest trading partner," said Regional Chair Gary

Carr. "The trend to 'Buy American' sentiment expressed in a growing number of states south of the border is especially worrying. Many Canadian jobs are on the line, not only at firms that deal directly with clients south of the border, but their suppliers and related industries. We need to come together as a country and take a strong stand on this issue sooner, rather than later."



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