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Gift Guide, 4 pages inside

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper serving Acton & Georgetown

72 Pages

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## Mail delivery to change in Acton

Door-to-door mail delivery in urban Acton will be eliminated next fall (2015).

See page 5



## GOOD SERVICE

A longtime Fred's Towing employee recently received the Canadian Automobile Association's Service Driver of Excellence Award. See page 27



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## Transforming into an elf

Larissa Miedema, 13, centre, gets her face painted at Breakfast With Santa Saturday morning at Knox Presbyterian Church while 12-year-old Victoria Mitchell looks on. The annual event, which included a pancake breakfast, photo with Santa and plenty of activities, serves as a fundraiser for the Georgetown Girl Guides.

Photo by Melanie Hennessey

## Province's complex ice storm claim guidelines frustrates mayor

By Richard J. Brennan  
Toronto Star

It's been almost a year since last December's crippling ice storm and not a penny of the \$190-million Ice Storm Assistance Program has been paid to municipalities, including hard-hit Halton Hills and Toronto.

Municipal Affairs Minister Ted McMeekin blamed municipalities for not completing and filing detailed applications. The deadline is Dec. 31.

"It's simple as that," McMeekin said.

Only one of 53 municipalities has completed the necessary paper work.

The Dec. 21, 2013 ice storm is still fresh in the minds of the residents. Thick ice knocked out power for days in some cases. Fallen trees toppled wires and made streets impassable.

Municipalities say the claims process is unnecessarily complex and even convinced the government to move the Oct. 31 deadline to end of the year, which also might be flexible. The application is so detailed the government had to find a consultant to help municipalities make a final submission.

So far only Township of Mapleton in Wel-

lington County has made an official claim for \$23,009. There are also six conservation authorities looking for money but none of them has filed an application.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said the Town, which is hoping to recover \$1.8 million in costs directly related to the ice storm, had submitted its costs to the Province and was working towards the Oct. 31 deadline based on the guidelines that had been set out.

He said the deadline was changed to Dec. 31 "because the Province is now asking for more detailed information."

Continued on page 2

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