

## *The way we were*



**SILVER CREEK:** Nearly unrecognizable as the entire valley has since been re-engineered, this winter wonderland from 1950 is the bridge over Silver Creek at Wildwood.

*Photo courtesy of the Esquesing Historical Society; Text by Heritage Halton Hills*

### FROM OUR READERS

## Winter's beauty

Simone Garland of Georgetown  
sent in this photo of  
Hungry Hollow.

Got a photo you want to share?  
Email — with details —  
to [cgamble@theifp.ca](mailto:cgamble@theifp.ca)



## As winter approaches it's time to have a safety plan

Many Halton residents will remember last December's ice storm, which left hundreds of homes without power for hours— some for days— over the holiday season.

Weather emergencies can happen at any time and with winter now on its way, it's important to get ready.

At Halton Region, the safety of our community comes first. We work closely with our community partners every day to develop and practice our emergency plans, and continually improve how we can respond effectively in the event of an emergency.

We work with each local municipality, Halton Regional Police Service, local fire departments and our Paramedic Services to ensure when the time comes, we have processes in place for an efficient, co-ordinated response.

The best thing you can do to protect yourself, your family and your property is to plan ahead.

So whether you are at home or travelling in your car, we recommend three important steps:

- Know the risks.
- Make a plan.
- Get a kit.

When you know the risks of what a weather event can bring, it is easier to prepare. For example, if there is a cold alert, the risks of getting frostbite or cold-related illness are increased. You can then plan to wear appropriate clothing or stay indoors to help protect yourself.

Making a home emergency plan is an important next step to prepare. For example, talk with your family and figure out how you might evacuate your home if you needed to.

You should also determine how you would "shelter-in-place" if you could not leave your home.

The last step is to get or assemble an emergency kit that will ensure you can be self-sufficient through the first 72 hours of any emergency.

You can purchase one from Halton Region, or put one together yourself. You can get the complete list of what you'll need from [Halton.ca/beprepared](http://Halton.ca/beprepared).

Don't forget that each of these steps is important for when you are travelling in your car as well.

Know the conditions before you leave and always tell someone your route of travel.

Carry a car survival kit with you as well.

We want you to be safe this winter, whether you live in an urban area or a rural one.

That's why we're sending Halton Region's Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide to Halton residents. It includes local emergency contact numbers, how to make a plan, checklists and more.

We hope you will use it and keep it as a reference in the event of an emergency.

For even more information, visit [www.halton.ca/beprepared](http://www.halton.ca/beprepared) where you'll find pages specific to the rural community, different emergency scenarios, severe weather tips etc.

You can also sign up for email notices for cold alerts at [www.halton.ca/coldalert](http://www.halton.ca/coldalert).

Enjoy the winter and stay safe and warm.

— Gary Carr is the Regional Chair



**Gary Carr**

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