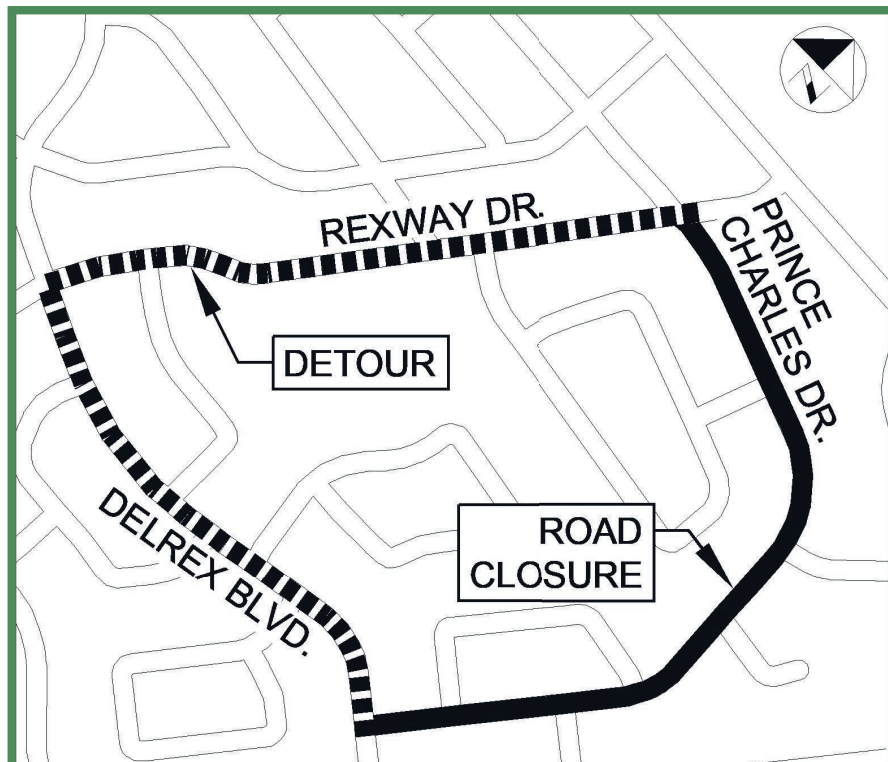


NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

Water and Wastewater Main Replacement on Prince Charles Drive, Town of Halton Hills



Project number: PR-3212

Prince Charles Drive from Delrex Boulevard to Rexway Drive is closed as of Monday, June 1, 2020 at 9 a.m. until Friday, December 11, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Street access for local residents will be maintained at all times. Driveway access may be limited.

Emergency vehicle access will be maintained.

For more information about this project or other Regional improvement projects:

- visit halton.ca;
- sign up to receive email notice and updates; or
- email accesshalton@halton.ca or call 311.



Shop local to support Halton farmers

During COVID-19, many local farmers have adapted their businesses to offer online purchases, delivery and curbside pick-up. Now is a great time to support them by purchasing fresh produce and goods from them which also helps kick-start our local economy. I encourage you to use our online Simply Local map to learn about what is offered at farms and markets near you. Let's show our agricultural community that we are here for them. To access our online Simply Local map, visit halton.ca or use the OneHalton app.



Gary Carr
Regional Chair

Meetings at Halton Region

Regional Council meetings are taking place through web conferencing until further notice. Videos will be posted to halton.ca.



Please contact us, as soon as possible, if you have any accessibility needs at Halton Region events or meetings.

06/11/20

NEWS

MANY BUSINESSES TRANSFORMING DURING PANDEMIC

Continued from page 1

the Downtown Acton BIA's co-ordinator last year.

"We're going through a hard patch, there's no denying it. But there's a possibility of a better future too," he said. "There are a lot of resilient businesses; some have been open for decades, and some have gone through a couple recessions. Let's give credit to our small businesses, which can be flexible and adapt really well."

Ennin said while the assistance programs from the upper levels of government for small businesses have been helpful, he'd like to see more offered that doesn't involve loans.

"Business owners do not want to take that (loans) on their books," he noted. "We are definitely in need of more support for the businesses."

Support from the community will be key to the future success of downtown stores, says Nancy Wilkes, who's operated Acton Optical in the core for 15 years.

"Everybody has been hard hit by this. If people haven't yet visited the smaller businesses in town, now is the time to do it," she said. "This is our passion, this is our livelihood, and we (small-business owners) are very educated in what we do. We love our downtown and we want it to continue to thrive."

Wilkes said Acton Optical took a "financial hit" from being closed for 11 weeks but managed to stay in touch with clients during that time through social media and emergency appointments. The store reopened its doors on June 2 with new safety measures for customers in place, such as the requirement to wear a mask.

With many downtown Acton businesses needing in-person interaction to deliver their services, Hilson acknowledged they've been the hardest hit in a world where many things are being moved online.

"It has been very challenging, but there is a bit of light at the end of the tunnel now compared to a month ago," he said.

Among those fortunate enough to transition their business to a digital model is downtown Georgetown's Royal Academy of Arts and Education, which offers music classes, art lessons and academic coaching.

Following the widespread pandemic closures, founder Connie Ward said her



Graham Paine/Torstar

Mary Johnston, of The Way We Were, lets a small group of customers into her boutique after a brief wait. Johnston only allows five shoppers into her shop at a time.

"It has been very challenging, but there is a bit of light at the end of the tunnel now compared to a month ago."

- Alex Hilson, Downtown Acton BIA co-ordinator

team was able to transform the academy from bricks and mortar to a completely virtual classroom in a matter of seven days.

While she hopes to eventually get back to in-class lessons, Ward said she'd like to continue offering virtual sessions as well to those families that find the online platform beneficial.

"One thing we've learned about through this is the power of choice," she said. "If we give clients choices, I think that will be a really healthy model moving forward for the future viability of businesses, particularly in the downtown core."

Ward said she's heartened by the amalgamation of efforts between the Town, chamber of commerce, BIAs and business owners to help the local economy survive the pandemic.

"In coming together, we've evolved in many ways, and that evolution is going to get us through this," she said. "The community at large had also really rallied to show up. I'm hopeful."

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: Downtown businesses in Georgetown and Acton have endured their share of challenges, with the pandemic being the most recent, ongoing impact. Local business owners say community support now is critical.