

# KEEPING OUR RESIDENTS SAFE

**WEARING A FACE MASK WHILE SHOPPING SHOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH TO ASK, WRITES RICK BONNETTE**



**RICK BONNETTE**  
Column

The Town of Halton Hills Council was the first in Halton Region to pass a mandatory mask bylaw.

Originally, we didn't have the authority to issue such a bylaw. The first week of July the premier stated that municipalities can do so. We now have the endorsement from the Regional Medical Officer of Health, along with other doctors.

There are exemptions for health reasons or children under five. If a front-line health worker can wear a mask for eight to 10 hours, surely you can wear a mask for 20 minutes while shopping.

During the pandemic, council has made decisions to keep our town safe, and will continue to do so.

The success of Halton Hills' businesses is key to the municipality's ability to deliver services that are critical to the well-being of our community.

To that end, the Town implemented several new COVID-specific economic supports, and advanced and

modified other important initiatives already underway. All of this has ensured that Halton Hills has remained open for business.

The Town continues to implement over 20 new and modified initiatives to position Halton Hills for an expedited economic recovery, as well as to remain competitive and 'open for business'.

These initiatives are part of the Economic Recovery Action Plan and follow the announcement that allowed Halton Region to move to Stage Two of the Province's reopening framework.

We launched the "Al Fresco in the Hills", an outdoor dining initiative designed to support local restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments.

Developed by the Town, in collaboration with the Economic Support and Recovery Task Force, Al Fresco in the Hills provides eligible establishments the opportunity to create additional temporary outdoor dining capacity while operations are adjusted in response to COVID-19 to keep public health as the top priority.

A new, streamlined and expedited process has been put in place to implement Al Fresco in the Hills. Interested businesses are encouraged to apply.

Further information can be found at [investhaltonhills.com](http://investhaltonhills.com) and [haltonhills.ca](http://haltonhills.ca).

*Rick Bonnette is the Mayor of Halton Hills. Follow him on Twitter @RickBonnette1 and Instagram rick\_bonnette1.*

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Diane Cuthbert photo

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## A GREAT ADDITION TO OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM

**TEACHING FINANCIAL LITERACY TO YOUNG STUDENTS WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH AN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILL, WRITES PETER WATSON**



**PETER WATSON**  
Column

Young children will start learning financial planning at school. This is an excellent life skill and, in my opinion, an educational upgrade.

One of the foundations an individual carries through life is a strong education. Reports over the years show a correlation to higher education and higher earnings.

Maintaining a desired standard of living requires earning an income, but it also requires the skill of

managing your money. That is the role of financial planning.

The Ontario government announced a new curriculum that starts in September. All elementary grades will have financial literacy.

CBC reported students from Grades 1 to 8 will learn about the value of coins, cash, calculations of interest rates, how to use customer loyalty programs and general issues of long-term financial planning.

Other aspects of math education will also change. This is based on the increasing frustration with the existing Ontario curriculum that has not been upgraded in 15 years.

Standardized math scores in recent years of Ontario students in Grades 3 and 6 are disappointing. Premier Doug Ford campaigned on upgrading the math education.

The inclusion of financial literacy will help students succeed as financially self-sufficient adults, and will also help the government.

The pressure on governments to provide financial assistance in the form of direct payments or services is a tremendous strain on its finances. The more our educational system can assist individuals in being stronger financially, the less support they might need from the government.

Education is critical. Math is recognized as an important subject that will benefit those with math ability and our country.

Ontario has made a good decision that will have positive impacts for decades ahead.

*Peter Watson is registered with Aligned Capital Partners Inc. (ACPI) to provide investment advice. Investment products are provided by ACPI. ACPI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. The opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of ACPI. Peter Watson provides wealth management services through Watson Investments.*

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