

# DEMAND EXPECTED TO RISE WITH COLDER WEATHER

Continued from page 1

supplies and learning opportunities — for more than 1,400 students, said Cesak.

Even after learning went virtual, schools continued to apply for funds on behalf of their students over the four remaining months.

"From the time that the schools closed in March to the end of June, we saw an increase in 22 per cent over the same period the prior year. We also provided support to 175 students who had already received funds from HLF in that school year, which was certainly different than prior years," said Cesak.

Although it's difficult to predict numbers for this school year, HLF anticipates even more students will come to their attention with the significant economic impact of COVID-19.

Less than two weeks into the current school year, 75 students from across the region have already received the foundation's support.

"That is still lower than this time last year, however, we expect the demand will increase once the weather turns colder and kids need warm clothing to get to school," added Sherri Armstrong, HLF communications manager.

Another reason for the

**"We just want to help kids be able to stay in school (and) have those financial barriers to education removed,"**

**– Halton Learning Foundation Chair Anne Cesak**

lower-than-expected number reflects the large cohort of students learning strictly virtually and the inherent challenge for teachers to easily identify kids in need, said Armstrong.

Thirty per cent of HDSB elementary students and 17.5 per cent of HDSB secondary students were learning virtually as of September.

With no field trips or team sports in students' foreseeable future, requests have focused mainly on food, clothing, hygiene and transportation needs, said Cesak.

HLF funding comes from a variety of sources, such as individual and corporate donors and community group fundraisers, but COVID-19 has also impacted the much-needed revenue charities depend upon.

"COVID-19 has certainly changed everybody's lives. We just want to help kids be able to stay in school (and)

have those financial barriers to education removed," said Cesak.

One longtime HLF supporter is CN, which recently donated \$100,000 to HLF, bringing its five-year total to \$800,000.

"It's a privilege for CN to partner with the Halton Learning Foundation to help children who need it," said Keith Reardon, senior vice-president of consumer product supply chain for CN. "We believe strongly in serving the communities in which we operate."

To make a donation, visit [www.haltonlearningfoundation.ca](http://www.haltonlearningfoundation.ca).

**STORY BEHIND THE STORY:** *The number of Halton students requiring the support of the Halton Learning Foundation was increasing even before the pandemic's arrival. COVID-19's significant impact on the economy has only exacerbated that need.*



Torstar file photo

Halton operates 12 water treatment facilities throughout the region.

## HALTON FIRST CANADIAN MUNICIPALITY TO WIN WATER QUALITY AWARD

It appears Halton is making a splash when it comes to drinking-water quality. The Region recently earned the Directors Award from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) — an honour that recognizes its commitment to high-quality drinking water and treatment.

Of the 250 water service providers and 400 treatment plants that belong to the international Partnership for Safe Water Program,

"The Ontario Water Works Association commends the region and its staff for their commitment

to the partnership, to its ongoing optimization efforts and to providing customers with the highest-quality drinking water possible," said Michele Grenier, executive director of the Ontario Water Works Association, the Ontario section of the AWWA.

Halton operates 12 water treatment facilities and delivers over 65 million cubic metres of drinking water to residents and business every day. The award specifically recognizes the achievements of the Burlington, Burloak and Oakville water treatment plants.

"Halton Region continually meets and exceeds provincial drinking-water standards, and this achievement is a testament to our track record," said Regional Chair Gary Carr. "I would like to commend our water treatment team for this important accomplishment and thank them for their dedication to quality, continuous improvement and for delivering this critical service each and every day."

The AWWA's program is a collaboration of six drinking water organizations with a mission to improve water quality through the optimization of water-system operations. Since Halton joined the partnership in 2016, regional staff have been using the processes and tools provided by the program to optimize plant performance and deliver drinking water that exceeds regulatory requirements.

For more information, visit [halton.ca](http://halton.ca).



**Back-to-School Health Checkup.**

*Book Your Child's Appointment Now!*

**WALK-IN & FAMILY CLINIC**

*Where good health begins*

**Open 7 Days a Week**  
We're OPEN LATE - Call us

**221 Miller Dr., Georgetown**  
905-873-1001 • [GenesisHealthTeam.com](http://GenesisHealthTeam.com)





**VISIT OUR RETAIL OUTLET STORE**

- Baked Cookies and Cookie Dough
- Discounts on daily selection of 'seconds'
- PUMPKIN SHAPED COOKIES NOW AVAILABLE!

36 Armstrong Avenue, Georgetown  
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

[theifp.ca](http://theifp.ca)