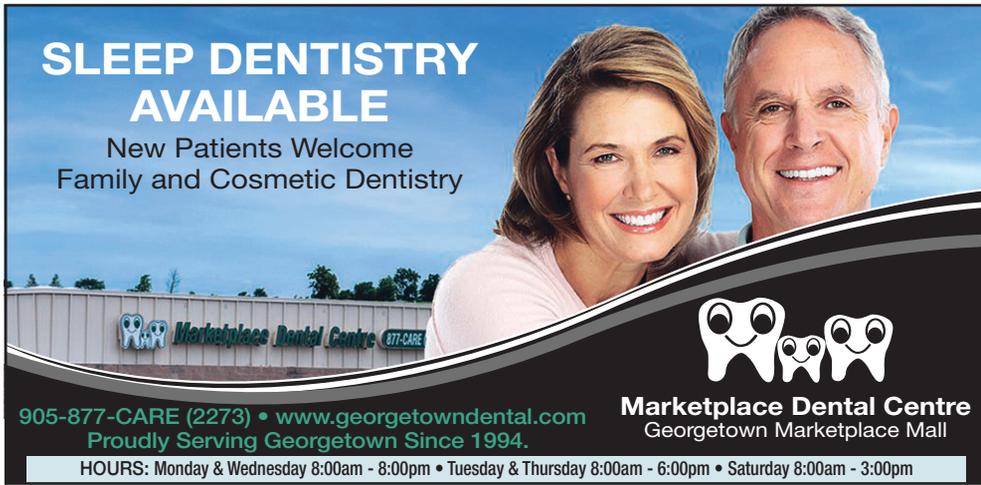


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NEWS



Metroland file photo

Here's a weekly roundup of COVID-19 cases and news.

WEEKLY ROUNDUP: HALTON'S TOP DOCTOR CAUTIONS AGAINST HOLIDAY GATHERINGS

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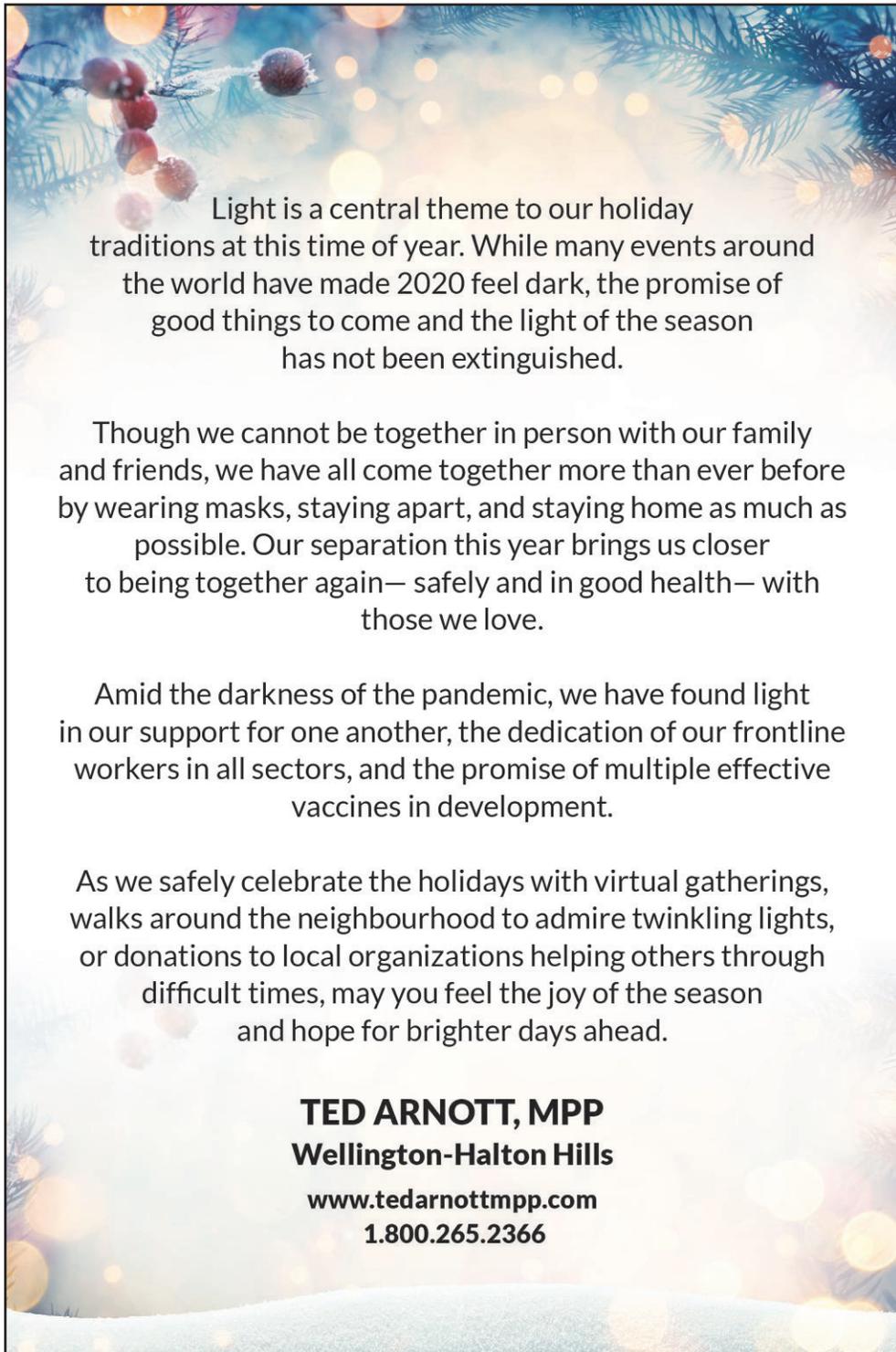
Celebrating the holidays will have to be different this year. With more than 1,500 new infections across Halton in the month of November alone, the highest since the pandemic started, Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health, warns residents — in a video update — about the significant risks that any group gatherings pose.

"These gatherings can result in many new COVID cases. They can lead to people having to isolate for up to two weeks. They can put pressure on our health-care system. They can put lives at risk," she said in the video, while reminding people to follow public health measures — including wearing masks in all indoor public places and

when physical distancing is not possible. She hopes people will consider holding virtual holiday gatherings and continue to work together and make safe and responsible choices to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As for the weekly cases, data from the website of Halton Public Health shows that, from Dec. 3 to Dec. 9, there were 385 new infections across the region, down from the 645 logged the previous week.

The number of active cases stood at 347 with 111 in Oakville, 110 in Milton, 105 in Burlington, and 21 in Halton Hills. There were also 37 resolved cases.

The illness also claimed more lives, mostly in long-term care and retirement homes. As of Dec. 9, there have been 4,253 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in Halton since the pandemic started, with 3,751 considered resolved and 75 deaths.



Light is a central theme to our holiday traditions at this time of year. While many events around the world have made 2020 feel dark, the promise of good things to come and the light of the season has not been extinguished.

Though we cannot be together in person with our family and friends, we have all come together more than ever before by wearing masks, staying apart, and staying home as much as possible. Our separation this year brings us closer to being together again— safely and in good health— with those we love.

Amid the darkness of the pandemic, we have found light in our support for one another, the dedication of our frontline workers in all sectors, and the promise of multiple effective vaccines in development.

As we safely celebrate the holidays with virtual gatherings, walks around the neighbourhood to admire twinkling lights, or donations to local organizations helping others through difficult times, may you feel the joy of the season and hope for brighter days ahead.

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