

# CLIMATE ACTION GROUP LEADING OPPOSITION

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alone in opposing this highway. Now we've got some traction," said Bonnette. "Many municipalities along this corridor are now starting to say, there should at least be a federal assessment done. The province has bypassed a lot of the environmental assessment that should be done."

The motion came as welcome news to local resident Janet Duval, who also heads up the Halton Hills Climate Action group alongside Coun. Jane Fogal.

"It just reflects a groundswell of opposition to this highway all around the western GTA," said Duval. "Councils and citizens are suddenly waking up to the fact that we can't just keep paving paradise. This would be 2,000 acres of farmland we'd be paving over, plus huge areas of green space we desperately need."

The Climate Action group recently led the charge on physically-distanced rallies in Georgetown and Acton to visibly oppose the highway that would wind its way through southern Halton Hills and along the border with Milton.

The events drew residents from Halton Hills, Brampton, Caledon, Markdale, Bolton and Oakville, with similar flash demos also occurring throughout the western GTA.

The call for federal scrutiny of the project has indeed expanded well beyond politicians. Recently, Ecojustice — on behalf of Environmental Defence, a Canadian advocacy organization — made a request to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to designate the GTA West highway for such an evaluation. Halton submitted a letter in support of the group's efforts.

Studies aside, most who oppose the highway con-

tend that the road isn't necessary in the first place.

"It will save 30 seconds (in commute) time. I don't get that," said Halton Hills Coun. Clark Somerville. "The pandemic has also dramatically reduced traffic levels that will take years to come back. We're in a work-from-home environment."

Bonnette said he feels the project would lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions and urban sprawl, with more developers drawn to build along the corridor.

"We have to look at other ways of mass transportation," he said. "The 407 is underutilized right now; that could be a trucking route."

*STORY BEHIND THE STORY: With the proposed GTA West highway opposition growing throughout the region, we wanted to take a closer look at the steps being taken locally to fight the controversial project.*



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OPINION

# SUPPORT FOR SALVATION ARMY GREATLY APPRECIATED

As we come to the end of another financial year at the Salvation Army Georgetown Community and Family Services, we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our community for its generosity.

Your gracious donations have enabled us to help those in need in our community in many ways.

Providing Christmas Assistance was very different this past year as a result of COVID-19. However, because of your generosity, we were able to provide families with a number of toys and a gift card for each



Wendy Tavender photo  
The Salvation Army continues to support those in need, thanks to the community's generosity.

child.

Families also received a gift card for food to allow for a nice Christmas dinner.

Throughout the year we continue to support families in need in our community with grocery gift cards and food staples from our food bank. Other assistance is provided in special circumstances as needed.

With the help of the Georgetown community, we were able to serve 92 families, which included 188 children and teenagers.

Though our fundraising was significantly less than our goal of \$120,000 because of our inability to have kettles in our usual locations, we still managed to raise \$64,000. This was an amazing effort in these difficult times.

Thank you for your continued support.

**MAJOR MIRIAM STEVENS**  
SALVATION ARMY GEORGETOWN COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES

# GIDDENS OPTOMETRY



DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN  
83 Mill St | 905 873 1867

We are open but due to the current virus situation we have to limit the number of people in our office. If you are planning a visit (for routine eye examinations, eyewear purchase and repair, contact lens pick up etc), please contact us in advance and we will arrange an appointment time for you. This will prevent overcrowding and keep everyone safe!



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Day Evening and Saturday Hours | Same day appointments for urgent eye care. Please phone.



Dr. Ben Giddens



Dr. Andrea Kozma



Dr. Stephanie Britton



## Let's Talk

Halton Hills

TOWN OF

HALTON HILLS

The Town of Halton Hills is holding a **Specialized Transit Plan Virtual Open House** and we want to hear from you!

Visit the Specialized Transit Plan project page on [letstalkhaltonhills.ca](http://letstalkhaltonhills.ca) between **March 31 and April 18, 2021** for a Virtual Open House.

View the Virtual Open House presentation, complete a brief survey and have your say on the final Specialized Transit Plan recommendations.

