

LTC FUNDING WELCOME NEWS

BENNETT CENTRE TO REDEVELOP SPACES AND ADD NEW ONES, WRITES TED ARNOTT



TED ARNOTT
Column

Our community recently received some long-awaited good news from the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

After years of planning and months of advocacy, Bennett Centre Long Term Care at Bennett Village in Georgetown received ministry approval to redevelop 66 spaces and add 94 new spaces.

When completed, the new 160-bed Bennett Village will set the standard for compassionate care for our seniors. It will include a dedicated dementia unit, in addition to a dedicated Francophone unit to serve the needs of our French-speaking residents.

Much of the credit for the announcement should go to Bennett Village's executive director Soo Wong and the Bennett staff and volunteers. As a former registered nurse, MPP and deputy speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Soo brings a unique blend of skills and experience to her responsibilities at Bennett Village.

Her passion for long-term care is matched by local Bennett supporters Brian Clark, Barry Dawson, Eunice McGowan, Ron Stitt, Rosslyn Dowell and

Teresa Fritsch, all of whom played a significant role in the successful redevelopment proposal.

The leadership of Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, town council and staff should also be acknowledged. My staff and I were very pleased to offer our support.

All of us will be able to show our support for Bennett Village in the coming months, as their fundraising campaign begins.

By working together, we are meeting the future needs of our community.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET DELIVERED

On March 24, Ontario Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy presented the province's 2021 budget in the Ontario Legislature.

The minister's speech was remarkable in several respects. He began by thanking the people of Ontario for "every act of kindness, consideration and patience that made this tough time a little easier."

While explaining the provincial government's policies to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, he went out of his way to praise the remarkable women who are leaders in the fight against the virus, including the Leader of the Opposition Andrea Horwath.

For more information on the 2021 Ontario Budget, visit budget.ontario.ca.

Ted Arnott is the MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills. He can be reached at ted.arnott@pc.ola.org.

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SNAPSHOT



Tony Fortunato photo

A dove visits the backyard of a home in rural Halton Hills. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

FINANCIAL FIRE DRILL: BE PREPARED

PLAN HOW YOU WILL REACT WHEN STOCK PORTFOLIO PLUMMETS, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON
Column

One of the most significant risks of investing is letting your emotions push you into panic selling.

Another risk we face in life is fire; for that, we may be prepared because of practising a fire drill.

The importance of being prepared can also be useful in managing your investments.

What type of "fire drill" procedures should be in place in case, suddenly, stock market values start to plummet and so does your portfolio?

Here are a few suggestions.

Start by managing your expectations. For example, looking at the U.S. stock market over close to 100 years we see a pattern.

Markets suffer an annual decline about 25 per cent of the time. So, about one out of every four years you should expect to lose.

Occasionally, the stock market has suffered back-to-back declining years. That said, there has never been a market decline that has not fully recovered and gone on to post new record highs.

Having a well-balanced and diversified investment portfolio is key. Owning just a few companies can be risky.

Focus on your long-

term goal. Preparing for a retirement should not be negatively impacted because you have a few bad years of investment returns.

Those bad years caused by declining stock values should be considered as normal investment risk.

A suggestion. Write out your own investment fire drill.

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. Watson provides wealth management services through Watson Investments. He can be contacted through www.watsoninvestments.com.

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This newspaper, published every Thursday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. The Metroland family of newspapers is comprised of more than 70 community publications across Ontario.

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