

GRIEVING FOR KAMLOOPS' INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

REAL ACTION NEEDED TO PREVENT FUTURE TRAGEDIES, WRITES MAYOR RICK BONNETTE



RICK BONNETTE
Column

The Town of Halton Hills joins municipalities across Canada in mourning the 215 Indigenous children whose remains were found at a former resident school site in Kamloops, B.C.

This is an appalling and grievous discovery. Like you, my heart aches for the children and families. I hope we as a nation learn from these horrors of the past.

Saying thoughts and prayers is not enough. We need to see change in policy and attitude.

After the elimination of the Edmonton Oilers from the NHL playoffs, Indigenous Oilers defenceman Ethan Bear was barraged on social media with racial slurs.

He stood up to his haters with a well thought out video response.

All residential school sites should be searched in case there are many more mass graves of Ingenious children.

Eradicating racism, promoting messages of unity, equity and hope should be the very foundation of which we govern our lives.

Thank you to the Halton Hills Alliance for Social Change for organizing a well-attended, emotional

vigil for these children.

June is a special time, as we recognize Indigenous History Month (please see the events calendar at haltonhills.ca for information).

June is also Seniors Month. We take this opportunity to thank our senior adults who have made lasting contributions in Halton Hills.

June is also Pride Month, and we are installing a rainbow sidewalk in Acton. Last year, we installed one in Georgetown. These sidewalks are a visible reminder that everyone is welcome in Halton Hills, and that we support our 2SLGBTQ+ residents.

I was very saddened to hear of the passing of former councillor Gerald Rennie. He was a remarkable man, an English school-teacher and Presbyterian minister.

Before he was elected councillor, he was on the board of ASSIC, which later morphed into Links2Care.

On council he pushed hard for seniors centres in both Georgetown and Acton. He also served for many years on the Acton BIA.

After being on council, he still served on the Acton Seniors Board.

Gerald had time for everyone. On behalf of council, I would like to offer my condolences to his family.

Rick Bonnette is the mayor of Halton Hills. Follow him on Twitter at @RickBonnette1 and Instagram at @rick_bonnette1.

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SNAPSHOT



Don Beatty photo

A pair of mallard ducks take a dip in a backyard pond on Harrison Place in Georgetown. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

TAMING THE PERSONAL DEBT MONSTER

HOUSEHOLD DEBT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL RISK FOR SOME FAMILIES, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON
Column

Managing personal debt could become the most important financial challenge for many households.

Historically the two most significant financial objectives were preparing for retirement and saving enough money to help children with the cost of post-secondary education. These two priorities will likely continue.

However, now we have entered an era of alarming personal debt. If debt levels are out of control, it could overshadow other family financial priorities.

Debt for many is their immediate financial con-

per cent.

If inflation rises above 2 per cent, the most probable way to slow down the economy will be to increase interest rates. That for some could lead to debt payments beyond their financial ability.

Adding fuel to the fire will be governments rolling out significant stimulus packages. This is needed to prop up lagging economies that have suffered because of the pandemic.

Acknowledging there are strong forces in our economy that could lead to higher interest rates is meant to warn families of what financial difficulties they could face.

Managing household expenses is something you should consider carefully.

Peter Watson, of Watson Investments MBA, CFP®, R.F.P., CIM®, FCSI offers a weekly financial planning column, Dollars & Sense. 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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