

# CLIMATE CHANGE DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ACTION: GROUP

Continued from page 1

work on that because we've got to live together. These are our neighbours."

Putting on his work hat as the co-ordinator of the Acton BIA, Hilson said he wants decision-makers in Ottawa to be very mindful of the impact when scaling back on financial supports that have helped some small-business owners weather the storm of pandemic shutdowns.

"Our federal government has to be really careful in our area and across the country with our small-

business districts," he said. "If they don't tread lightly, a lot of people could lose their livelihoods and be forced to close up shop."

On the business front, the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce said it wants to see Canada's next parliament offer strategic support to strengthen the local economy through access to interprovincial and global markets, capital and talent.

"Ontario is Canada's economic engine and is responsible for almost 40 per cent of its GDP. Issues and concerns related to Ontario business need to be

**"The UN climate panel warned that the world is at Code Red. All political leaders should act like it."**

- Jane Fogal

front and centre for the MP for Wellington-Halton Hills," said chamber executive director Melanie Frazer. "We would also like to see significant improvement made in much-needed reforms to the federal tax system, funding public transit, and expansion of

broadband infrastructure."

Elsewhere in the riding, Jane Fogal and Janet Duval of the Halton Hills Climate Action Team are hopeful that the incoming federal government will recognize the state of climate emergency.

"The UN climate panel warned that the world is at Code Red. All political leaders should act like it," said Fogal and Duval in a joint statement to the Independent. "The floods and fires we saw this summer are going to get worse and come often, and the way we live is the problem. Our MP needs to say so, and lead by example."

Fogal and Duval said the local climate action group wants to see an end to fossil fuel subsidies, new incentives for green infrastructure like electric vehicles and home energy ret-

rofits, and a fair transition to a green economy, with milestone reports from the government every five years starting in 2025.

*STORY BEHIND THE STORY: With a short but heated federal election race drawing to a close, we wanted to take a closer look at what issues are important to local residents for the new parliament to address.*



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NEWS

# HEARING ASSISTIVE DEVICES INSTALLED AT TOWN FACILITIES

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When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, municipalities and business began installing plexiglass barriers at their service counters in an effort to protect both staff and customers.

While the intention to protect everyone was good, there were unintended consequences.

"After we installed plexiglass barriers at a few of our front service counters, we realized that the sound was impacted and

staff were having difficulty in communicating with residents," said Chris Mills, Halton Hills' acting chief administrative officer.

The town has now taken steps to address that with the installation of hearing assistive devices at the counters at town hall and the Gellert Community Centre.

The devices provide a speaker and microphone on both sides of the counter, but can also transmit a signal directly to a hearing aid. Stephanie Brown, a

managing partner with Hearing Loops Canada, said most new hearing aids will automatically receive the signal while some older hearing aids may require the user to switch the setting to T-coil.

Transmitting the signal directly to the hearing aid also eliminates any background noise, giving the user better sound quality.

Brown said devices to assist the hard of hearing will be required by 2025 as part of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, but in many

cases, COVID-19 has pushed up the timeline.

The technology to transmit sound directly to a hearing aid can be used in a variety of settings, including board rooms, council chambers, churches and theatres.

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Hearing Loops Canada photo

The Town of Halton Hills has installed hearing assistive devices at town hall and the Gellert Community Centre.

## Notice of Temporary Road Closure Due to Event - Greenore Play Street Initiative



Notice of the temporary closure of Greenore Street for the Greenore Play Street Initiative on Sunday, September 26, 2021, from 3 to 5 p.m. Road closure will affect Greenore residents in odd numbered homes (#35-#45).

Organized by the Town of Halton Hills. If you require any additional information regarding this road closure, please contact the Recreation and Parks Department at 905-873-2600, ext. 2273.

This notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and Town of Halton Hills By-law 2008-0020.