

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE DELVES INTO LOCAL ISSUES

COMMUNITY LEADERS GATHER IN VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE, WRITES KAREN MICELI



KAREN MICELI
Column

It's about trust. Our relationship with our readers is built on transparency, honesty and integrity. As such, we have launched a trust initiative to tell you who we are and how and why we do what we do. This article is part of that project.

Earlier this year, I told you about the Halton Advisory Council that was formed by Metroland's Halton Division community newspapers to help us better understand the issues facing our residents, readers and business partners.

The council — led by the Burlington Post, Oakville Beaver, Milton Canadian Champion and Georgetown/Acton Independent and Free Press — brought together a group of community leaders from across the region to share their thoughts on what issues were most pressing in Halton.

After taking it all in, we formed three sub-committees to delve into the issues more closely — Diversity and Inclusion, Trust and Transparency, and Community Health, Safety and Wellbeing.

Late last month, the first meeting of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee was held in a virtual roundtable.

We asked the committee members:

- In your opinion, what are some of the key challenges facing Halton's diverse communities?

- How can we, as a media organization, better provide coverage of Halton's diverse communities? Are there specific issues or communities that you feel are underrepresented in our coverage?

- What should Metroland take away from this meeting? What are you taking away from this conversation?

We heard about issues surrounding trans youth in accessing gender-affirming health care, bullying of newcomers in schools, overall rampant racism in Halton, as well as the need for Indigenous education for all ages, and programming for young adults with developmental disabilities.

As a result of feedback from the meeting, we are planning editorial initiatives, including a special series of stories and a community outreach project, to focus on diversity issues in Halton.

Next week, the Trust and Transparency Committee will meet for the first time and we expect we will gain more insight into our relationship with our readers. Stay tuned.

Karen Miceli is managing editor of Metroland's Halton community newspapers.

We welcome your questions and value your comments. Email our trust committee at trust@metroland.com.

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SNAPSHOT



Gina Patterson photo

A frog basks in the sun on a deck in the Ewing and Ontario streets area. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

UNDERSTANDING INFLATION VITAL TO INVESTING

LET FACTS, NOT FEAR, GUIDE YOUR DECISIONS, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON
Column

Should investors worry they may receive poor stock market returns if inflation rates rise?

Historically, that has not been the case.

Assume the stock market gained 10 per cent during a year that inflation was three per cent. The first three per cent of return is needed to account for inflation. An investor needs to recover the three per cent of purchasing power that was eroded during the year.

In this example, the after-inflation "real" return to the investor was seven per cent.

Since 1926, the U.S. stock market has posted an average annual after inflation "real" return of 7.3 per cent.

ey.

Bonds have less short-term risk. Long-term bond returns have historically been significantly lower than stocks.

Inflation is an important consideration. We recommend understanding its implication on both your investments and your ability to meet your financial objectives.

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 reached at 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.

This newspaper is a member of the National NewsMedia Council. Complainants are urged to bring their concerns to the attention of the newspaper and, if not satisfied, write The National NewsMedia Council, Suite 200, 890 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M4W 2H2. Phone: 416-340-1981

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