

# RETURN OF MANY ACTIVITIES A WELCOME SIGHT

SANTA CLAUS PARADES RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, WRITES RICK BONNETTE



RICK BONNETTE  
Column

It's great to see some sort of normalcy returning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A special thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion Branches 120 and 197 for having Remembrance Day services at the cenotaphs.

The Acton Fire Association and the Georgetown Lions Club are once again organizing the Santa Claus parades, set for this Saturday (Nov. 20).

Hockey, figure skating and the Georgetown Raiders are back on the ice.

It's wonderful to be able to dine inside again. Many of our businesses and restaurants have struggled through the pandemic. Support them whenever you can. Remember, our small businesses are your friends and neighbours, and they always step up in sponsoring local events and teams. This Christmas, shop local; shop Halton Hills.

I'm part of an initiative to raise awareness about domestic violence. Working with Halton Women's Place and the Halton Re-

gional Police Service, we will be unveiling a "purple bench" as a stark reminder of the abuse that quietly occurs in our community.

There were 335 incidents of domestic abuse reported in Halton Hills this year, a statistic that almost mirrors 2020.

Halton Women's Place is the only women's shelter in the Halton Region, providing emergency safe shelter and community outreach services to women and children experiencing domestic violence and abuse. If you need support, call 905-332-7892 or 905-878-8555, or reach out through the online chat tool at halton-womensplace.com/chat.

Lastly, in anticipation of winter fast approaching, town staff have been busy preparing for winter.

The town's response to heavy snow will be carried out per council's approved policies that set out the priority routes, focusing first on main arterial roads, then collector roads and finally, residential and rural roads.

I want to remind residents that we will clear roads as quickly as possible. However, please be patient as it does take time for the plows to get to all of our local streets.

Please know that we recognize the importance of road maintenance in supporting drivers' safety, and we have over 1,100 kilometres of roads, 158 km of sidewalks and 27 municipal parking lots.

*Rick Bonnette is the mayor of Halton Hills. Follow him on Twitter at @RickBonnette1 and Instagram at @rick\_bonnette1.*

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## SNAPSHOT

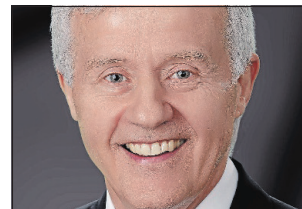


Mary Anna Wyga photo

Milkweed blooms along the Bruce Trail in Limehouse. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

## ESTATE PLANNING GONE TERRIBLY WRONG

ROGERS FAMILY'S PUBLIC BATTLE A LESSON ON HOW ESTATE PLANNING EFFORTS CAN BACKFIRE, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON  
Column

A large part of estate planning is deciding how to allocate your wealth to different beneficiaries. For most families, this means distributing your wealth among your children.

The late Ted Rogers built his tech company and according to the Rogers website, it has 25,000 employees and an annual revenue of \$13 billion. For personal reasons involving the premature death of his father, he wanted to protect his children and ensure they would benefit from his financial success.

In theory, all of these

our estate planning efforts avoid this kind of family infighting?

A starting point is to understand we are all human.

People change over time and so do their priorities. We are not going to always agree with others, including family members.

Parents must realize if their estate planning is overly complex and relies on ongoing family harmony, that might not actually happen.

Estate planning is an extremely important aspect of managing your wealth. Managing family harmony during this process deserves your careful consideration.

*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.*

good intentions should come true.

Except, however, when you add in a human element. For the last while, we have seen what amounts to a family feud that has reached high levels of anguish, disbelief, and sadness.

Siblings are arguing against each other, their mother has been vocal on which children she agrees with and which she does not.

The argument is now in court. The press is having a field day.

This is a learning opportunity, everyone. How can

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