

PLENTY TO CELEBRATE THROUGH FEBRUARY

TIME TO RECOGNIZE BLACK HISTORY AND OUR LOCAL OLYMPIANS, WRITES RICK BONNETTE



RICK BONNETTE
Column

February is the month to celebrate Black History.

The town invites residents to celebrate with a series of education programs presented by Cultural Services and the Town of Halton Hills Library. For a complete schedule of activities throughout the month, visit the town's website (haltonhills.ca).

As we continue to shape our community as an inclusive and equitable place to live, work and play, it's essential that we learn from the legacy and engage with the stories of Black Canadians.

Beyond February, the town remains committed to offering programs year-round that spotlight Black artists and voices — through the Helson Gallery, Culture Days, Halton Hills Public Library, and more.

Three local athletes hailing from Halton Hills have prompted me to send personal well wishes via Twitter and Instagram posts. Residents are encouraged to cheer on our Olympians by sending their own social media messages.

A huge congratulations to our local Olympians who make us so proud:

- Jasmine Baird (snowboard): [@jasmine.baird](https://twitter.com/@jasmine.baird)
- Sarah Fillier (women's

hockey): [@sarahfillier16](https://twitter.com/@sarahfillier16)

• Sara Villani (bobsleigh): [@likeavillain](https://twitter.com/@likeavillain)

The Town of Halton Hills council and staff believe that governments, community groups and organizations contribute to our quality of life and well-being.

The town has established the Community Partnership Program (CPP) to allocate municipal funds and resources to support community-based activities, events and initiatives to align with the town's priorities.

Meeting the needs of residents through a collaborative approach of working alongside community organizations is an excellent example of what makes our town so special. I want to thank these organizations for keeping residents in our community connected and engaged.

If your organization is interested and want to learn more, call 905-873-2600, ext. 2273. Please note the application deadline is Friday, March 11 at 4:30 p.m.

The town is undertaking an Outdoor Ice Strategy to review the short and long-term vision for outdoor ice facilities and programs.

Objectives of the study are to engage with local residents, community groups and council to define the Outdoor Ice Strategy; to find out what outdoor ice activities residents are interested in; determine if more outdoor ice facilities/programs are needed and many others.

We are interested in your comments, and I encourage you to complete the survey at letstalkhaltonhills.ca.

Rick Bonnette is the mayor of Halton Hills. Follow him on Twitter at [@RickBonnette1](https://twitter.com/@RickBonnette1) and Instagram at [@rick_bonnette1](https://www.instagram.com/@rick_bonnette1).

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SNAPSHOT



Anne Philpott photo

Wild turkeys search for food on Ninth Line 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.

NORMAL ECONOMIC CYCLES CAN HURT THE INDIVIDUAL

Economic activity in Canada ebbs and flows.

We have prosperity, then things slow down and we can have a recession. Then a recovery.

The goal of the Bank of Canada is to manage our economy, provide slow and steady growth and hopefully allow us all to prosper.

That's good for the country, but not necessarily good for individuals.

When the economy slows, one strategy employed by the Bank of Canada is to lower interest rates.

The cheaper interest rates are, the more individuals will borrow and spend.

The Bank of Canada needs to entice consumer spending to increase economic activity.

Often there is a warning

too much personal debt.

Eventually the economy will be clipping along at a fast pace and need to be slowed.

That will result in the Bank of Canada increasing interest rates.

Some individuals with too much debt will not be able to afford higher interest rate payments.

Those who overspent and helped restart the economy could face financial hardship.

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.



PETER WATSON
Column

not to overspend and accumulate excessive household debt. But lowering interest rates was meant to encourage spending.

Economic success does eventually happen.

Business activity picks up, people are employed, and the government collects taxes as a result.

Economic success for Canada does not necessarily translate to those consumers who could not resist low interest rates and now find themselves with

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