

# TEMPORARY RESTAURANT PATIO PROGRAM RETURNING THIS SPRING

MELANIE HENNESSEY  
mhennessey@metroland.com

After years of hardship for restaurants, the Town of Halton Hills is striving to make things a bit easier for local dining establishments in the coming months.

The municipality's temporary outdoor patio program — Al Fresco in the Hills — is set to return, giving restaurants the opportunity to set up outdoor dining areas from May 1 to Oct. 1 at minimal to no cost.

The initiative was launched in 2020 to help reduce restaurant revenue losses caused by COVID-19 public health restrictions, in particular, the closure of indoor



Graham Paine/Torstar

Local restaurants can apply to have temporary patios again this year.

dining spaces, explains a report from Halton Hills manager of economic development and innovation Erin Kaiser.

"Recognizing the continued uncertainty being caused by COVID-19 and the need for a transition period, it is recommended that the Al Fresco in the Hills program continue for 2022," she noted. "Town staff will continue to assist food and drink establishments and streamline the process wherever possible."

Last year, the municipality approved 16

temporary patios throughout Halton Hills.

The application and approval process for 2022 will begin on April 1, with the program remaining free of charge for patios within the public right-of-way, and a \$1 cash in lieu of parking fee being charged for patios on private property.

The Al Fresco in the Hills program will be sunset on Oct. 1. Restaurants that want to continue with their patios beyond then will have to submit the necessary applications to the town for consideration.

# HUNGRY HOLLOW BRIDGE REHABILITATION STARTING SOON

MELANIE HENNESSEY  
mhennessey@metroland.com

Construction on the Mountainview Road bridge over Hungry Hollow is poised to get underway this spring.

The project that will rehabilitate the bridge will see the stretch of Mountainview Road between Eden Place and Resource Road reduced to one lane in each direction between April and December.

The town has indicated that designated multi-use paths in each direction will be open to pedestrians for the duration of the work, and access to all homes in the area will be maintained.

Rehabilitation work on the bridge — which was built in 1996 — will include repairs on sidewalks, retaining walls and concrete curbs, replacement of outer and inner railing systems, and more.

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