

# KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

WITH SCHOOL YEAR ENDING, IT'S TIME TO THANK OUR CROSSING GUARDS, WRITES RICK BONNETTE



RICK BONNETTE  
Column

The school year is coming to a close. There is one group of individuals I would like to publicly thank and that is our crossing guards.

They can be seen making sure your children cross the streets safely to school each and every school day. It could be 30 C or -30 C and they are there at their assigned location. A huge thank you to all of them.

The provincial election is over, and the people have spoken. Premier Doug Ford is in for another four years with a solid majority.

As I said in my last column, we had capable candidates running in Wellington—Halton Hills. I would like to thank all who put their name forward on the ballot. Congratulations to MPP Ted Arnott on his ninth straight election win.

What was most disappointing was the low voter turnout. It was the lowest ever in Ontario at only 43

per cent.

Speaking of elections, the municipal election is this fall. Aug. 19 at 2 p.m. is the last day to file nomination papers for the municipal election taking place on Oct. 24.

It was so nice to see so many people turn out for the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Walk to End ALS. The first walk was held in 2009. In a very short time, they have reached \$2.1 million in donations.

I am so proud of this giving community.

June is Indigenous History Month. The town invites residents to participate in programs offered by our Cultural Services and public library to honour the history, knowledge, creativity and diversity of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

I encourage you to participate in Indigenous programming and take an active role in learning about their experiences in Canada.

Engaging with diverse cultural programming is an important step toward a more diverse and inclusive Halton Hills.

Lastly, both Acton and Georgetown farmers markets are open, as is the Acton Trunk Sale.

They run as follows — the Acton Farmers' Market (Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m.), the Georgetown Farmers Market (Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and the Acton Trunk Sale (Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).

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

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## SNAPSHOT



Anne Philpott photo

A blue jay comes in for a landing in a backyard on Hamilton Crescent. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

## FINANCIAL DESPAIR CAN HAVE A SILVER LINING

Early in their career, as the story was told, there were two major setbacks suffered by a person I once spoke with — the loss of a job and the loss of real estate.

The moral of the story was how negative events can have positive outcomes.

The person referred to the popular expression, "You play the cards you are dealt." You cannot control what happens to you, but you can control how you react.

In this case, both the current successful career and real estate success would not have happened unless these major setbacks occurred.

I cannot imagine the emotional and financial challenge this person suffered.



PETER WATSON  
Column

Many are overextended with too much debt, and now that interest rates are rising some may not be able to keep up with payments. Recent homebuyers are facing a slowdown in the real estate market and much speculation about a significant drop in prices ahead.

Their fear is they overpaid in a hot real estate market and buying their "dream home" is turning into a nightmare.

Some business owners

are being squeezed because of supply chain issues, including being able to purchase goods needed in their business and maintaining a qualified staff of employees.

There is a lot of change coming for many.

Most people do not make changes easily. But we do have the ability to change and that is the key component of how humans have evolved.

Your key to success is how you overcome your setback.

Your despair could have a silver lining.

*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.*

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