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## NEWS

# CHAMBER CELEBRATES LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce recognized eight businesses during its 43rd Business Excellence Awards on Oct. 19.

Hosted at the Granite Ridge Golf Club, the gala celebration — which coincided with Small Business Week — put a spotlight on the contributions of local businesses, organizations and their teams to the community.

"The core message of the evening was community. Every day our businesses are focused on getting the job done, but they all find time to give back to Halton Hills. Our awards bring the business community together to celebrate how important each and everyone's contribution to the economy of Halton Hills is and to recognize business excellence," said chamber executive director Melanie

Frazer.

Intending to acknowledge a set of values, the awards recognize social responsibility, entrepreneurial spirit, risk-taking, ideas and innovation in the community — all of which contribute to a stronger local economy, shared a chamber release.

"This is so important because small businesses make up 98 per cent of all Ontario businesses and 30 per cent of the provincial GDP," the release stated.

In 1979, the first recipient of the Business of the Year award was Smith and Stone Limited. An industrial landmark in Georgetown for more than 70 years, Smith and Stone Limited opened its doors in 1919, and manufactured items related to electricity such as porcelain insulators, wiring devices and switches.

Since then, 128 businesses have been recognized, shared the release.

The following are the recipients of the 2022 business awards:

- The Community Excellence Award recipient was Monckton Real Estate Group;
- The Association of the Year Award was taken home by the Halton Learning Foundation;
- The Employee of the Year Award went to Dana Sheppard;
- The Environmental Sustainability Award recipient was Superior Glove Works Ltd.;
- The New Business of the Year Award was bagged by Farm Girl Fitness;
- The Business of the Year: 1-9 Employees Award was presented to Dynamic Bodies Fitness Studio;
- The Business of the Year: 10+ Employees Award recipient was Georgetown Toyota;
- The HomeTown Hero Award was bagged by Sarah Brophy-Platts.

## OPINION

# HIGHWAY PLAN MUST BE STOPPED

With the recent Harvest March against the construction of Ontario's Highway 413, it is important to reiterate once again how destructive this redundant mega-highway will be for the people and environment of Ontario.

The proposed highway would pave over 400 acres of Greenbelt land, along with over 2,000 acres of some of Ontario's most productive farmland. It would sever the vulnerable headwaters of four watersheds of the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation's territory, drastically impacting their physical and cultural landscape and heritage.

Not only will the highway be extremely destructive, but it will also not solve the congestion problem Ontario faces. An expert panel

has found that Highway 413 would only save travellers 30 to 60 seconds per trip.

The highway would cost Ontarians billions in tax dollars, and — I believe — millions more in damages caused by the air pollution of all the cars it would carry, with no real benefits to show for it.

It is time we think of the Ontario we want to leave for our future generations, and Highway 413 should not be a part of it.

OLIVIA BUNDY,  
ACTON

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## legal matters | ESTATES & TRUSTS

### What happens if I die without a Will?



M. Jasmine Sweatman  
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- **If you have a spouse**, but do not have children, your estate will be left to your spouse.
- **If you have a spouse and one child**, your spouse will receive the "preferential share" (the first \$200,000). The remainder will be divided between your spouse and child 50/50.
- **If you have a spouse and more than one child**, the first \$200,000 will go to your spouse. The remainder of the estate will be divided as follows: 1/3 to the spouse, 2/3 to the children, divided equally. If only grand children survive they would share the estate equally.
- **If you have children, but are not married**, all children share the estate equally.
- **If you do not have children or a spouse**, your entire estate will go to your parents. If both of your parents are deceased, your siblings will share in the estate equally.
- **If there is no next of kin**, the estate escheats or goes to the Crown (government).

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