

GETTING IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

SANTA CLAUS PARADES A GREAT KICKOFF TO SEASON, WRITES TED ARNOTT



TED ARNOTT
Column

As the Christmas season beckons and 2022 draws to a close, we can look forward to the coming holiday season with excited anticipation.

I was glad to attend the Santa Claus parades in Acton and Georgetown on Nov. 19, along with many of our colleagues in elected public service.

It was wonderful to see the crowds along the parade route, with warm, friendly smiles despite the cold, wintery winds. We thank the Acton Firefighters Association and the Georgetown Lions Club for organizing the parades to welcome the holidays back to Halton Hills.

For most of us, memories of past holiday celebrations, the joy of giving, and making plans to relax with loved ones fill our hearts with joy and gratitude.

However, with the rising cost of groceries, fuel and housing, there are many in our communities who are struggling more than ever to make ends meet.

In addition, the stresses associated with COVID-19 have challenged everyone's mental health. In spite of our difficulties, our residents continue to come together as one.

Please keep this in mind in the coming days.

Our local food banks, churches, and service organizations all need donations and volunteer help to address the needs of our communities.

We can all do our part.

Let caring, compassion and kindness define our Christmas gatherings for 2022; and may we ring in the New Year with faith and hope that the best is yet to come.

Merry Christmas.

WELCOME NEW MAYOR, COUNCILLORS

After the recent municipal election, we have some enthusiastic new voices balanced with steady experience on the new council of the Town of Halton Hills. I want to express congratulations to Mayor Ann Lawlor, regional councillors Clark Somerville and Jane Fogal, and Councillors Alex Hilson, Michael Albano, Jason Brass, Joseph Racinsky, Chantal Garneau, Ron Norris, Bob Inglis and D'Arcy Keene.

I look forward to working with them, along with the town's superb staff team.

Rick Bonnette, Jon Hurst, Ted Brown, Bryan Lewis, Wendy Farrow-Reed, and Moya Johnson all leave town council with our special thanks, after exemplary community leadership and dedication over many years.

Ted Arnott is the MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills. He can be reached at ted.arnott@pc.ola.org.

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SNAPSHOT



Flo Bellman photo

A hummingbird clearwing sphinx moth visits a garden on Durham Street 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.

INVESTMENTS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

TAKING RISKY OPPORTUNITIES NOT NECESSARY, WRITES PETER WATSON

People like to pick a winner, and this is certainly true with investing. But this sometimes backfires.

Until recently, FTX was a global giant as a cryptocurrency exchange platform. According to CNBC, its value was \$32 billion.

That was before it suddenly declared bankruptcy. Instantly, investors lost billions, including its CEO, who has resigned.

There is a derogatory expression that describes some new investment opportunities as "the new shiny object."

The best advice with these investments is buyer beware.

There are thousands of investments that can be made, so venturing into



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risky opportunities is not necessary.

When investors are lured into speculative investments, it is critical to remember a basic foundation of investing and that is to have strong diversification.

For example, an investor that had five per cent of their portfolio invested in FTX could lose just five per cent. That would be a disappointment, but would not likely be an unmanageable loss.

But if someone invested all their money, and perhaps even borrowed to make the investment, this loss could be devastating.

The FTX example of a very large company suddenly declaring bankruptcy is just what's in the recent news.

I believe there will be others. Always remember the importance of strong diversification.

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. Only investment-related products and services are offered through Watson Securities of ACPI. Watson provides wealth management services through Watson Investments. He can be reached at www.watsoninvestments.com.

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