

# Balmy breezes bring Robins - spring is in the air

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GEORGETOWN



Balmy spring-like weather moved in from the southern United States last week creating a shroud of dense fog. It was followed by beautiful sunny weather that brought out bicycles, skipping ropes and other harbingers of spring. First to report sighting a big fat robin to The New Tanner was Mrs. Leroy MacArthur of Churchill Rd.N. She spotted a robin redbreast at home. Bonnie Baxter also reported she saw a big fat bird at home in

Lakeview subdivision.

Others have reported snowdrops and crocuses already blooming in their flower gardens, another sign of an early Spring. The warm breezes melted almost all the heavy blanket of snow which covered this area from back in the early part of January.

Pessimists, however, warn us that although we are now into March that

Spring doesn't officially arrive until March 21 and the calendar date doesn't necessarily ban further wintry weather. Snow storms have arrived as late as mid-April in other years, they point out.

Most of us nevertheless appreciated the break from often very cold winter weather. And we'll accept what ever Mother Nature sends us next.

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## What's Inside

## 3-acre school yard on the block?

### Fairy Lake ice unsafe

Although there's still ice on area lakes, ponds streams, Conservation Halton is warning everyone, especially children, to keep away from them because ice is unsafe.

The balmy temperatures and rain of the past few weeks has resulted in the meltdown of most of the snow on the ground. Creeks and ponds water levels are higher than normal but many still have ice residue on them.

Ice generally melts at the edges of Fairy Lake first but cold nights sometimes refreezes the water and gives the impression the lake is safe. But it is fast deteriorating under the warm sun and rain showers and it's unsafe for humans and pets.

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**BEST BUSINESS:** Peter Zions (second from left) owner of Peter Zions Construction in Acton, proudly accepted the Business of the Year award at the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce business achievement dinner last Thursday at Blue Springs Golf Club. Congratulating Peter are Chamber president Tom Sikatori, Chamber member Brian MacAdam and award sponsor Nick Fry with the Business Development Bank of Canada. - Frances Niblock photo

### Halton Board says they face economic reality

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

It may be a "shame" and a "real disappointment" but economic reality could see the Halton District School Board sell off a three-acre piece of surplus property at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School.

The Board's proposed capital strategic plan proposes severing and selling the property fronting on Churchill Road. The Board must close under-capacity schools and sell surplus property to be eligible for provincial money to build schools in growth areas.

The three-acre surplus was created when McKenzie Smith Middle School and M.Z. Bennett School amalgamated several years ago.

Town planning staff said selling the property would have a "major impact" on the availability of soccer fields and ball diamonds and green space for Acton.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette said he was "up in arms" over the issue, and it would be a real shame to see eight to ten homes built on the site.

"We've fostered a relationship with the school board over many, many years. We've added baseball diamonds and soccer fields and it would really be a shame to see approximately one-third of that property going for sale for development," Bonnette

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## Halton cops are tops at \$61,888

A first class Halton police constable will earn top salary of \$61,888 at the end of a 42-month contract recently ratified by the Halton Police Service Board and the Halton Region Police Association. The collective agreement with uniform and civilian employees features an overall increase in wages and benefits of 10.4 per cent over the life of the deal. The contract brings Halton police in line with settlements reached by other police services in Ontario.

Halton CEO, Acton's Brent Marshall, raised a few eyebrows around the Halton

Hills Council table on Monday when he mentioned the City of Halton during a briefing of a proposal for part of

Flamborough to join Halton in a restructuring plan. Marshall meant to say City of Burlington, but with all of the

recent amalgamation and restructuring talk, some wondered if his comment was a Freudian slip.

Marshall said in-depth studies are underway into the implications of 22,000 Flamborough residents joining Halton, but stressed the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has the final say.

"So, even if we disagree or don't accept the proposal that Flamborough puts together, if the Minister sees merit in making the change... the Minister can still make that decision," Marshall said,

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### Police urge caution when driving in fog

Heavy fog which blanketed the North Halton area last week were blamed for a number of accidents on highways and regional roads.

Halton Regional Police Sgt. D. Ford said they investigated several collisions especially on Regional Road 25

(formerly Hwy 25), north of No. 5 Side Road.

Police are urging motorists to show down and to use full running lights while travelling in foggy weather. Winter is not over yet and it is possible similar conditions will return with the advent of warmer weather.

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