

Mayor's Corner

By Rick Bonnette



Christmas is fast approaching. November and December is a period of short days, cold nights, and cloudy skies. For most, Christmas is a time of joy with friends and loved ones. For some though, it is a reminder of what they don't have, of how hard life can be. This is a time of year that I ask that you remember to donate to organizations that serve our community, such as food banks, Salvation Army kettles, and Sharing Trees, to name a few.

What's often lost in the statistics is the number of children who are in need as their families struggle to make ends meet. Many of those needing assistance are working people like you. As the holidays approach, be in good cheer and help others to be in equally happy spirits.

Good news! Did you know that your Council has approved the increase of the annual tax grant to \$200 for seniors. Currently 160 seniors in Halton Hills receive this grant. The general qualifications specify that seniors must be 65 years of age or older, receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and own and occupy their residential property for at least one year in Halton Hills.

Application forms are available at the Town's finance department.

MYAC (Mayor's Youth Action Committee) is once again gearing up for another year of special events, all the while promoting a positive image for the youth of our community. MYAC is a committee that acts as an advisory body to myself and Council on matters that have an impact on youth in our town. This year, there are 28 members from all parts of Halton Hills, ranging in age from 13 to 18, making this year's committee the largest it's ever been!

Congratulations to Dan van Kessel, who was elected Chair, and Marina Snider who was elected Vice-Chair. I look forward to working with this great group of enthusiastic youth.

The Town of Halton Hills is fortunate to have youth who are committed to making a difference in their community, and in the lives of their peers. I encourage interested youth to join us!

Our community has welcomed the following new businesses in Georgetown:

A & A Unisex Hair Salon, and Downtown Spa and Relaxation Centre (new location).

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Heroes:

- Keith Poulous for making us aware of Lyme Disease
- Bill Spielvogel and the Acton Firefighters Association, and the Georgetown Lions Club for organizing two spectacular Santa Claus Parades

•The Honourable George Smitherman for announcing the transfer of our hospital to the Halton Healthcare Service

•All of our volunteers that make Halton Hills a vibrant community

•All our veterans in celebration of 2005 – "The Year of the Veteran"

•Chris Kenopic – championed the cause for the hearing impaired in Halton Hills

•Gordon Morton

•Ted Gorth

•Cancer Survivors (including my own Mom)

•Zack Pearson

•Citizens of the Year (Tom Schenk – Georgetown; Janice Giles – Glen Williams; Linda Dougherty – Acton)

Zeroes:

•Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

•Tsunami and earthquakes

•Terrorists

•Bullies whether in the schools, sports events, or chat lines

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The Mayor's Showcase is presently displaying the artwork of local artist Adrienne Houston. A multi-artist show is running for the month of December at the Main Street Inn, 126 Main Street South in Georgetown, where you will see more of Adrienne's artwork on display.

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On behalf of myself and

VON honours Betty Brownridge

Long-time VON Halton volunteer and North Halton resident, Betty Brownridge, was recently honoured with a recognition award for 20 years of volunteer service during VON Halton's annual volunteer recognition event held in November.

Ms. Brownridge joined VON Halton in 1985 as a Friendly Visiting Volunteer, a region-wide volunteer service which helps frail or socially isolated seniors and physically-challenged individuals to live as independently as possible in their homes.

"Betty's invaluable contribution has demonstrated improvement in the quality of health and well-being of many people in our community for whom it would not otherwise have been possible," says Anne King, Volunteer Services Manager, VON Halton. "Betty is patient, gentle and cheerful, and she has a gift of lifting people's spirits with her wonderful sense of humour."

Over the past 20 years, Ms. Brownridge has been matched with 18 clients – all with a variety of health and emotional conditions. She has offered companionship and emotional support through listening and sharing and practical support through outings like providing transportation to appointments, shopping and recreational activities.

Ms. Brownridge explains how she became interested



Betty Brownridge

Honoured by VON

in volunteering with VON Halton after caring for her mother who passed away in 1985 at the age of 92.

"Caregivers face numerous challenges which can take its toll both physically and emotionally," says Ms.

Brownridge. "While caring for my mother, I experienced first-hand the value and the critical need for volunteer visiting services. As a VON Halton volunteer visitor, I'm able reach out to people in our community who face the same challenges as I did to let them know that they are not forgotten or alone."

In 1991, Ms. Brownridge was presented with a Community Volunteer Award from the Ministry of Community & Social Services for her outstanding VON volunteer work. She was one of 10 recipients from central Ontario.

In North Halton and Milton, there are currently 30 people waiting to be matched with VON Halton volunteer visitors just like Betty Brownridge. VON Halton encourages anyone who is interested in this type of volunteer opportunity to call 905-827-8800 or 1-800-387-7127. For more information, visit www.vonhalton.ca.

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Christmas Blow-Out Sale

Up to 90% off

Magic Bullet \$49.99 <small>reg. \$149.99</small>	DVD Player \$39.99 <small>reg. \$79.99</small>	CD Walkman \$9.99 <small>reg. \$39.99</small>
25 TV Games <small>with player & controller</small> \$9.99 <small>reg. \$79.99</small>	Perfume (2pc gift set) <small>KO2, Old Spice, English Leather</small> \$7.99 <small>reg. \$19.99</small>	Philips Lady <small>Shaver</small> \$19.99 <small>reg. \$99.99</small>
Wireless Head Phones \$14.99 <small>reg. \$39.99</small>	Winter Jackets <small>with lining and hood</small> \$6.99 <small>reg. \$29.99</small>	Christmas Musical Door Mat \$1.99 <small>reg. \$4.99</small>

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May the coming year bring you all that you hope for.

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Blue Springs Spa & Salon

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Christmas Packages:

Classic Escape
 1/2 hour Massage or Reike
 Classic Pedicure
 Spa Snack
 \$72

Hot Stone Escape
 1/2 hour Hot Stone Massage
 Hot Stone Pedicure
 Spa Snack
 \$100

*upgrade to one hour massage \$130

Spa Day Escape
 One hour Massage or Body Wrap
 Spa Pedicure, Spa Manicure
 Spa Snack
 \$140

Dreamy Escape
 One hour Massage
 Facial
 Spa Pedicure
 \$180

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 Maternity Massage (custom maternity table) available by request.
 Spa Tub Session complimentary with any package by request.

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