

# An Update from the President

It has been an exciting start to my term as president. The Chamber was involved in our local elections with our [letsvote.ca](http://letsvote.ca) website, which we will be reactivating for the next election. We also held a 'meet the candidates' breakfast. But now the elections are over and the new town and regional councils are down to business, and your Chamber is busy as usual.

In December, the provincial government enacted Bill 211, ending mandatory retirement at age 65, to fall in line with the federal policy. The act changes the definition of age in the Human Rights code, which before protected people between the ages of 18-65. The upper age limit is now removed. Some employers see this as a solution for their labour shortage. The end of mandatory retirement could help to alleviate the skills shortage that many

employers are facing. But while older workers may provide some relief to the labour shortage, accommodating them may require some work-place changes.

The first phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative is set to begin on January 23rd, 2007. If you are traveling to the US by air as of that date, you will now need a passport. Phase Two is delayed until June 2009, and will affect those traveling by land and sea. The US Ambassador to Canada, David Wilkins, explains that the WHTI is not meant to impede travel, but to enhance security. US border officials deal with many different forms of identity, so the standardization of documentation will help facilitate travel

between the two countries.

The Bank of Canada left the prime rate unchanged at 6% in early December, and though there has been some weakening in the economy, it is unlikely that they will make a cut at the first interest rate announcement of the year on Jan 16th. Markets may be disappointed in the first half of 2007 as the Feds are likely to hold rates steady there. The US interest rates are low by historical standards, and consumer activity is slowing but not stalling, and businesses are continuing to invest.

New vehicle sales have slowed in this fall, but are expected to rebound. There has also been a cooling in the residential construction market.

The federal government's Tax Fairness Plan of Oct 31st will allow pension income splitting for seniors as of 2007. The government will also reduce taxes on savings and capital gains, but have not been specific as to details or timing.

The recent announcement of the streamlining of provincial corporate tax returns is also welcome news for business. The collection and administration of Ontario's corporate income tax will now be done by the federal government, as of taxation years ending after Dec 31, 2008. Businesses will now have one tax return and one set of rules, allowing savings in time and money, creating more investment in things that make our economy grow. That's good news.

*Helen MacCormack, President,  
Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce*



## BUSINESS LINK

A Quarterly Official Publication of Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce  
328 Guelph Street,  
Halton Hills, ON L7G 4B5  
Tel 905.877.7119  
Fax 905.877.5117  
Email [info@haltonhillschamber.on.ca](mailto:info@haltonhillschamber.on.ca)  
[www.haltonhillschamber.on.ca](http://www.haltonhillschamber.on.ca)

### Editorial Committee

**Editor:** Cor Baarda,  
Knowledge Management

**Business Resources:** Beverley King,  
Halton Hills Public Library

**Chamber News:** Sue Walker,  
Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce

**What's News:** Cor Baarda,  
Knowledge Management

**Features:** Marnie Hughes,  
Communication Artistry

**New Members:** Wendy Hue,  
Partners In Progress

**Production & Printing,**  
The Independent & Free Press  
Steve Foreman,  
Director of Advertising,  
Dolores Black,  
Production  
Assembly, Horizon Packaging

BusinessLink is the official publication of Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce. Unsolicited material is not eligible for payment.

Opinions expressed are those of the author, not necessarily those of the Chamber, its Board of Directors or its membership.

It is distributed free to all Chamber members and through The Independent & Free Press.

## Metalscape, Innovations in Metal Art

*By Marnie Hughes,  
Communication Artistry*

When driving along 5th Line in Limehouse, you may find yourself slowing down when you see large metal works of art scattered outside a bright yellow workshop. A closer look draws you in as you find yourself intrigued by the huge arbors and gazebo. There is whimsy among the majesty as small and large cat silhouettes scamper behind the shop. Take a moment to drink in the scene. Are those geese actually flying? No, they are gracefully swaying in the wind on thin, almost-invisible rods. You've discovered Metalscape, Custom Metal Art.

When you meet Doris Treleven, the artist and proprietor of Metalscape, you will be instantly engaged by her warm smile and welcoming manner. She will be patient as you take your time scanning the works of art in various stages of completion. It is obvious she has seen this jaw-dropped response before during the company's six years in business and a knowing smile shows that she is pleased you have come.

Doris Treleven is an award-winning artist who started out as a machinist in her father's tool and die shop. During her tenure there, Doris discovered different aspects of the metal industry certifying for pressure vessel welding, studying metal forming, blacksmithing and the ISO 9000 program. Working in the automotive and manufacturing world, she soon discovered a constant urge to be innovative and creative.

What sorts of objects are there to see at Metalscape?

Outdoor garden structures such as arbors and obelisks are popular. Whimsical pieces such as sunflowers or birds can also be found here. But it is in looking through an overstuffed album of past projects that I become enlightened to what Doris truly has to offer. There is no end to what she can accomplish with stainless steel or copper. Since most pieces are custom designed, the sky is the limit. Some projects include signs, tables, trellis, gates, railings, fences and garden art. Although a lot of her work can be seen outdoors, there are a great number of pieces designed for inside. Particularly beautiful are the metal vines that climb the wall and function as a multiple tea light holder.

While many artists are known for a certain style, Doris defies being pigeon-holed as seen by the diversity of her pieces. While you are welcome to visit her shop and purchase products from her, many customers require something for a specific space that needs to be custom made.

When you wish for a custom piece, contacting Doris with a picture of the space along with measurements will get you started. From there, she might suggest the direction of design based on your tastes and needs. Basic or abstract, it doesn't matter. Doris will then review with you the materials that might be appropriate for the project. At this point, a drawing will be sketched so that you are both in sync and once this drawing is finalized a quote can be provided. A best guess will be made for the delivery time of the project based on its complexity and other jobs already in process.

The tools that Doris uses vary depending on the technique she hopes to achieve. A plasma cutter provides a quick and clean fine line cut using a combination of electricity and air while an oxyacetylene torch makes a cut with a rougher edge. The majority of material incorporated into each project is new metal cut, formed, finished and treated to achieve the final look of the project.

Doris Treleven's work can be seen throughout Halton Hills and across the province, extending from Ottawa to St. Catharines, as well as places around the world. She regularly participates in the One of A Kind craft show as well as Canada Blooms. Look for her display at the upcoming Halton Hills Arts Week in Glen Williams May 4 - 6, and her Open Studio Mothers Day weekend.

Metalscape, Custom Metal Art can be found at 13016 - 5th Line in Limehouse. You can reach Doris Treleven at 519-853-9743 or visit her website at

[www.metalscape.net](http://www.metalscape.net)



*One of Metalscape's creations "flying" in Wasaga Beach.*

*Photo courtesy of Metalscape*