

# EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

## Don't hold your breath

The news that an Environmental Assessment of GO Transit's proposal to extend service from Georgetown to Kitchener-Waterloo with a stop in Guelph also named Acton as a "preferred option" for a station.

For those who can't wait for the option of an Acton station we suggest they don't hold their breath. The report suggests the Acton option is many years down the road. It certainly won't be there for the projected expansion completion in September 2011 unless there's a sudden change of heart.

Acton is small potatoes compared to the stops in Guelph and Kitchener-Waterloo where hundreds of thousands live and commute. The presence of GO will certainly expand the population figures but it could also have an adverse effect on industrial growth in the three cities when it's much easier to commute into the GTA.

There are many arguments both pro and con for the Acton station which would attract riders from both north and south of the community. It would take many cars off the road as traffic increases into the GTA increases to the point where it's bumper-to-bumper on 401 Hwy. on the rides in and out of the GTA. There's little room left for parking in Georgetown for those who don't have access to GO bus service.

Both MP Michael Chong and MPP Ted Arnott have endorsed an Acton stop, using their influence with both the provincial government and GO Transit officials. Acton used to be an important stop in the Canadian National Railway system when passengers as well as freight were the priorities of the railways. Now the myopic view 30 years ago, when rail lines and stations were closed and freight became more important than people, is beginning to fade, it may be time to think more about rail service as an alternative to automobiles.

Environmentally rail service makes sense and the sooner it arrives the "greener" this neck of the woods will be.

## Important anniversary

For those whose lives have gone beyond the biblical three scores and 10, today, September 3, should have a special meaning. It's the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of World War 2, an event that changed this country from a colonial thinking part of the far-flung British Empire into a partner with the major powers of the world.

It's often said that Canada as a country was forged in the battle of Vimy Ridge during World War 1. And it was the beginning of the process which showed that Canadians could do things on their own and do them well, not only militarily but in all other aspects of running the country.

Of course, there are those in our own country who would dispute that. But it's a fact that the G8 powers include Canada as part of the decision-making process. Our economy is recognized around the globe as one of the better run ones – during the current recession. Militarily we're not a major power but our peace-keeping efforts are recognized around the world.

It's a fact that we live beside the United States, the world's largest economy and military power, which does not make it any easier being an independent country. Much of the time it's like walking a tight rope because much of Canada – can I say most? – does not necessarily agree with decisions made south of the border. The U.S. is Canada's biggest trading partner with over 80% of our exports headed there.

Of course not everything is perfect. Like all other countries there are flaws as some constantly remind us. But we've come a long way since September 3, 1939, when after months of concern and anxiety about the actions of Hitler, and Nazi Germany, war was declared and Canadians had to face up to their obligations. Again, not everyone agreed. The Prime Minister Mackenzie King called Parliament in after the summer recess and Parliament endorsed the declaration of war – seven days after Britain had declared war following the invasion of Poland by Nazi forces.

It was 70 years ago and few thought that the prodigious war effort from Canada would one day lead to the confidence the country now has in its ability to run its own affairs – and run them well.



**STIMULATING:** Mayor Rick Bonnette was happy to accept a cheque from Michael Chong, MP for Wellington-Halton Hills, \$2 million to stimulate the local economy under the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF) in Southern Ontario. The money will improve the arterial roads in Georgetown and will create immediate employment opportunities and support the local economy. - Submitted photo

## Some things that irk me

Do you ever have one sort of minor thing irking you and then you start noticing other things that irk you? Somethings you may not need to be involved in or have any say in, but somehow you feel the need to voice your opinion anyway. It happened to me recently.

Last week as I was heading down to the doctor's office, I pulled over on Frederick Street because my cell phone was ringing. I was finally doing what I was supposed to... I pulled over to talk. Before I knew it, a man was standing at my window very angrily talking to me. I finished my call and rolled down my window, slightly with caution. Before I knew it he was yelling at me telling me I was blocking his driveway (I was not) and on his property (I was on "town" property) and that I was parked and he had timed me.

I hadn't planned on staying there and I tried to explain. After he continued I finally told him to "shut up" (parents, I know ... you shouldn't tell someone to shut up) as I rolled up my window and drove away. I could have got a lot more involved but with that he started reciting my



By  
**Angela Tyler**

licence plate and called me a few very horrible words I will never say, let alone put in a column.

The whole event sort of upset me mainly because of the vial names and the fact that he had my licence plate memorized and recited it. So, with that, I headed off to our police station to inquire if I should do anything. There always seems to be police cars in town, or at the station, so I was confident that this would be the most efficient method instead of calling.

What I was greeted with was a locked door. When I knocked on the door, I was told they were in interviews and if it wasn't urgent I could come back in a half an hour. This was even more troubling. When the police were downtown they always seemed to have someone, even if not a police officer, attending to the office.

What good is a police station in

town if the door is locked? If this was the first time it had happened I might have looked the other way. However, in the past, I have had to go there for some other reasons and have found the same situation. I understand it's a satellite office, but, the locked door is troubling.

Also during the week, I had the need to find a phone number for a local business which for some odd reason I couldn't find on canada411. Now, the whole phone number thing is another irk because we, as in Acton, can no longer just say the last four digits of our phone number. It made us unique and you could identify an Actonite from a newby by how they said their phone number. Born and raised here you would just say the last four. Newbies always say the whole thing including the area code. Funny then but now, it is long gone. Small sidetrack. Back to the phone number search.

I decided to hit the Acton BIA website, which might I add has been recently redesigned and looks awesome. While I was there, I started snooping around as you never know

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