

To control waterfowl...

# Oakville committee considers shooting Canada Geese, destroying unhatched eggs

Some Halton Hills councillors are willing to shake up geese eggs to destroy unhatched birds, but they refuse to shoot Canada Geese to control pollution in this Region's waters.

Councillors responded Monday night to a letter from the Town of Oakville, asking for a representative from Halton Hills to sit on a committee to consider controlling the Canada Goose population in Halton Region by either "addling" (shaking up) unhatched geese eggs or by "harvesting" the water fowl. Shaking the eggs would destroy the young.

The committee that meets with the Canada Wildlife Service aims to control the amount of fecal chloriform - excrement - dropped into Lake Ontario, Kelso Lake and Fairy Lake in Acton mostly by birds, causing a high pollution count.

Acton Coun. Norm Elliott told councillors he had a "strong objection" to harvesting the geese.

"It's nothing more than a euphemism for the hunt of Canadian Geese," the councillor said.

"We have an ongoing situation where the Canada Geese are fed by our own citizens on a regular basis. To be quite blunt, we've created part of the problem ourselves."

## Newcomers meet

The Georgetown Newcomers' Club's next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 15 at St. Andrew's United Church, 89 Mountainview Rd. The topic this week will be Christmas crafts and Joanne McDonald will be the guest speaker.

For more information contact Etta at 877-7816 or Lori at 873-4996.

Mr. Elliott said there is a problem with geese excrement polluting beaches in Oakville and Acton, but he said there is a "more humane" method of reducing the geese population than a shotgun hunt.

"We want to deal with this problem but I honestly believe that another method instead of a controlled harvest is the way to do it."

Mr. Elliott said he might approve of adding the eggs - shaking them to prevent newborn geese from hatching, but he asked for more information on that technique of species control.

Acton Coun. Gerald Rennie said the Oakville goose committee's approach to geese population reduction is "fine to me... if it's only addling" the eggs.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller said it would be "premature" to put a Halton Hills councillor on the geese control committee until a report on Fairy Lake is presented to council in the next few weeks.

The 60-page report outlines the cause of high pollution counts recorded at the man-made lake owned by Canada Packers.

Fairy Lake's beaches registered high fecal chloriform counts for about one-third of the summer.

The old beach was safe for swimming 74 days and warnings were posted for 15 days.

The new beach was closed for 40 per cent of the summer registering safe fecal chloriform levels a total 32 days.

# New road is named McFarlane Drive

New condominium owners at the Sands condominium project on Guelph Street near Norval will have a place to call home.

After some debate at Halton Hills town council Monday night, councillors rejected the name McFarlane Drive intended for the street, but then were told by town staff that the people buying the condominiums would move into the building during the next months.

The deliberation in naming the road allowance near the Sands began when Councillor Al Cook from Georgetown suggested naming the road after Upper Canada College who owns the land behind the property.

The Esqueving Historical Society suggested the name McFarlane Drive, or a name after the Alex-

anders, who used to live on the Upper Canada property, but it was rejected by councillors.

"There are people moving into the Sands at the end of the month and they're desperate for an address," town assistant administrator Stephen Thomson told councillors.

Councillors then revoted, this time in favor of McFarlane Drive.

That street name was said by the historical society to reflect "an active Norval family," who owned property beside the Sands condominium.

# Acton, Georgetown families use Oakville foodbank

By BEN DUMMETT  
the Herald

About 75 of the 500 families who use the Fareshare Foodbank in Oakville come from North Halton, says the foodbank's co-ordinator, Paul Dennyson.

And of the 30 new families that use the foodbank every month, usually about five of them are from the north - Acton, Georgetown or Milton - he added.

It is these statistics that have convinced some Acton residents that an Acton-based foodbank is needed to service the area.

But before the Acton Action Women's Group goes full steam ahead at starting one up, they are sponsoring a public meeting next Thursday night at the YMCA in Acton to see if the rest of the community shares their view.

Sandra Snyder, a member of the women's group, said she knows several people and has heard of others who have run out of money near the end of the month to buy food.

The foodbank would serve people who have been laid off and have children to feed and clothe. "A lot of people especially low income earners, what with rent and kids, sometimes run into food shortages," she said.

Ms. Snyder said if the group started a foodbank it would include goods not normally found at the Acton Social Services Information Centre, or the Salvation Army, in Acton and Georgetown. Fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh dairy

products and household items including disposable diapers, washing detergent and tooth paste, would be available, she said.

ASSIC's executive director Peggy Balkind said she doesn't know whether Acton needs a foodbank. ASSIC has never run out of the food it keeps for families facing a temporary food shortage, she said.

But ASSIC doesn't publicize the food it offers, so there might be many people who would use the service but are unaware of it, said Ms. Balkind.

She said ASSIC gives out two- or three-day supplies of dried and canned food at a time. If the family still needs more food ASSIC can give more out, she said. But unlike a foodbank it doesn't have enough supplies to help out families monthly with their food needs.

The Salvation Army in Acton and Georgetown also offers two-day emergency food supplies.

A spokesperson for the Acton church said a lot of people use the foodbank but she didn't have specific numbers. The spokesperson was unwilling to comment on whether Acton needed a full fledged foodbank.

Those invited to the meeting include Mayor Russ Miller, Councillors Rick Bonnette and Gerald Rennie, the managers of the IGA and Foodland in Acton and Ted Tyler of Tyler Transport. For more information about the meeting call Sandra Snyder at 853-3618.

## Authors visit for book week

Celebrate children's book week by meeting local artist Joanne Fitzgerald, illustrator of Betty Waterton's "Plain Noodles" children's book, at Oxbow Books downtown Georgetown.

Ms. Fitzgerald will be on hand for readings, book signings and demonstrations on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Martyn Godfrey will appear at the Georgetown Library on Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in honor of children's book week.

Mr. Godfrey is the author of several children's books including "Plan B is Total Panic" and "Here she is, Ms. Teeny Wonderful."

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