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# The Halton Hills HERALD

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## Lightning strike

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
 The Herald

After Wednesday morning's thunder storm, Sven Morgensen of Georgetown said he'll never use the bathroom facilities again during a storm.

At 9:30 Wednesday morning, lightning struck a maple tree in Mr. Morgensen's backyard. Seconds later, his television and VCR blew and a big flash came out of the toilet bowl.

Fortunately, nobody was hurt but Mr. Morgensen's very ill wife was in the bathroom and was really shook up by the flash and the crack of noise that went with it.

In all his life, Mr. Morgensen said he and his wife have never seen anything like it and confesses he'll never go into the bathroom during a storm again.

Mr. Morgensen called the Herald Wednesday afternoon to talk about the unusual event and said he had just turned from his kitchen window when he heard a deafening crack of thunder. He spun around and saw the lightning strike a huge maple tree in his backyard.

"It really gave me a fright," he said. "I could feel my legs tingling as the floor shook and I watched as the clothesline attached to the tree just bounced up and down."

He believes the lightning must have travelled down the clothesline and into the ground where it got into the septic system and subsequently, came up through the toilet.

The lightning also somehow travelled down his TV tower, blowing the wiring inside his television and VCR.

Ken Hodge, a line supervisor for Halton Hills Hydro, said he's not surprised by anything that happens during a thunderstorm.

"With lightning you can never tell what will happen," he said. "It surprises you every time."

Though he's never heard of lightning coming up through the toilet before, the news didn't surprise him.

He said several places were hit Wednesday. "We had a couple of transformers blown and some blown fuses on the line," he said. In all, Halton Hills Hydro responded to eight calls for service Wednesday.

As for Mr. Morgensen, he's relieved he and his wife weren't injured by the lightning and reports that although the birds in the Maple tree died from the lighting streak (he found a dead Robin lying at the tree's trunk), the tree is still standing with only a small burn mark where the lightning hit.



## Hospital Fashion Show

White sisters Joanna (older girl) and Katie do some window shopping, brother Alexander relaxes on the window sill of Victoria Lane Fashions on Main Street in Georgetown. The Fraser siblings are wearing Victoria Lane spring wear which was part of the fashion show held Tuesday at Sacre Coeur

Hall in support of Hamilton's Chedoke-McMaster Hospital for Sick Children. For a \$10 ticket, people watched a fashion show consisting of fashions from Victoria Lane, My Generation and Elizabeth's Fashions and Bridal Boutique. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

## Police chase

Two police cruisers and a stolen car are severely damaged after a police chase ended in a car crash on 10th Line south of 20 Sideroad at approximately 3:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Halton Regional Police officers say they were investigating a report of a stolen vehicle when they observed the stolen auto in the area of Main St. and Henry St. in Georgetown.

Police say the driver refused to stop so they pursued the vehicle. The pursuit lasted approximately

10 minutes over a distance of eight kilometres and ended when the stolen vehicle struck two police cruisers on 10th Line South.

Nobody was injured but damage to the three vehicles is estimated at \$15,000. The driver of the stolen car, a 22-year-old from Tottenham, was taken into custody and charged with theft of a motor vehicle and dangerous driving.

He appeared in court Thursday but details of the hearing weren't available at press time.

## OMB appeal called 'abuse of system'

By BEN DUMMETT  
 The Herald

An appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) over the Kingsmill development project in the River Drive area of Georgetown "is an abuse of the system", says the project's developer Larry Law.

Acton resident Michael Armstrong has appealed Mr. Law's proposal to build 175 townhouses to the OMB because he objects to some of the townhouses' setbacks for parking spaces and some of the sizes of parking spaces allotted for several of the housing units.

Although Mr. Armstrong resides in Acton he owns a piece of property neighboring the development.

Mr. Law said Wednesday Mr. Armstrong filed the appeal to the OMB to force him to purchase the property from Mr. Armstrong.

"I'm furious that he (Mr. Armstrong) is taking advantage of the system," added Mr. Law.

Mr. Law made his comments at the end of the first day (Wednesday), of what was scheduled to be a three-day OMB hearing at the Halton Hills Civic Centre.

The hearing officer ruled the proceedings be deferred to July 15 after Mr. Armstrong's lawyer, Dennis Trinaistich, successfully argued his client was allotted insufficient time to hire a planner in order to present his case.

Mr. Law said for every month

the appeal remains unsettled, completion of his project is pushed back another month. Mr. Law had originally scheduled to have the townhouses ready for occupancy by the end of October. He wouldn't speculate if the change in the OMB hearing date will extend the planned October occupancy date.

Following the hearing, Mr. Law produced a letter addressed to him by Mr. Armstrong, dated this past March in which Mr. Armstrong indicates his willingness to sell the property to Mr. Law for \$325,000. In the letter Mr. Armstrong states he will hold off submitting his appeal to the OMB until receiving a response to the offer.

Mr. Law said he rejected the sale price saying the property is only worth \$77,500. Mr. Law based the figure on an assessment of the property by local real estate valuation consultant Stephen Saxe.

Mr. Law said Mr. Armstrong is trying to force him to purchase the property for more than its value by continuing the appeal.

Mr. Armstrong wouldn't comment on any aspects of the case Wednesday.

In his affidavit, Mr. Armstrong writes, "I believe that I have exercised my rights under the Planning Act properly and fairly and that I am entitled to have a full and fair hearing before the OMB. I did not file my appeal for any

improper purpose or motive." During the hearing, the officer ruled against dismissing Mr. Armstrong's appeal. Mr. Law's lawyer, Stephen LeDrew, requested the appeal be dismissed arguing it wasn't based on any planning merits.



## Herald recognized

Harold Williams (right), a director on the Halton Social Planning Council, presents Day Taylor, (left), representing the Halton Hills Herald, thanking the newspaper for promoting volunteerism in Halton Hills. Awards were presented at the council's annual general meeting Tuesday in Burlington. (Herald photo)

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### Quote of the Week

"To restore from stroke of lightning - shower with cold water for two hours; if the patient does not show signs of life, put salt in the water, and continue to shower an hour longer."

The Canadian Home Cook Book (1877)