

# Province should pay growth OMB costs

Many of you know that I have not been a fan of the "Places to Grow" legislation and I have written about this many times in this column. This is the legislation where the Province has mandated Halton Region to almost double our population from 400,000 to 780,000 by 2031. Halton Hills has accepted a modest increase of 20,000 with Milton taking the bulk of the growth.

Now there are other developers pushing to add an extra 40,000 to Halton Hills. The financial impact to municipalities from this legislation has already been significant and the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) costs will be staggering as developers will be challenging the municipalities and the Region on our decision. The lawyers and the consultants will get rich on this one.

Last council meeting, your Council approved a motion put forward by myself requesting that the Province of Ontario cover all appeal costs to the OMB for this Growth Plan Conformity Exercise. After all, these projected astronomical legal and consulting costs will be borne by our present taxpayers based on the Provinces initiatives.

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July 19th at 2:30 p.m. will be the official opening of the Superior Glove Splash Pad in Acton at Prospect Park. The splash pad features a truly unique fish theme. This will be a real benefit to Prospect Park as a community destination.

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Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard on putting on a great Canada Day. The Glen, as always takes centre

## Rick Bonnette



stage on Canada Day with many activities throughout the day. Prospect Park in Acton was also a beehive of activity with musical entertainment and followed by the Acton Firefighters Association putting on a fantastic fireworks display. While most of us enjoyed the activities I give full accolades to all of the volunteers who assisted in making Canada Day special for all of us.

Speaking of volunteers, I would like to congratulate Eva Murdock on being selected as Glen Williams Citizen of the Year.

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Six more soccer fields are well underway at Trafalgar Sports Park thanks to Georgetown Soccer Club and Canada's Economic Action Plan and Ontario Infrastructure Funding. Construction is well underway with completion set for the fall 2010. Watch for further details in the Spring of 2011.

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Congratulations to Salon Pure Environment on their grand opening on Guelph St. in Georgetown.

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Keeping it real! I can be reached at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342, or by email at mayor@haltonhills.ca or you can read my blog at www.rickbonnette.blogspot.com.

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