

YOUR PAPER...YOUR COMMUNITY...YOU'RE INFOCUS



LETTER FROM IN FOCUS



When it comes to living in a small town like Halton Hills, I've noticed that there are two types of people: those whose families have lived here for generations and the "newcomers." Even though I was born here, raised here, went to school here, work here, play sports here and volunteer here, I'm still pegged as a newcomer. Why? Because of the way I say Ballinafad.

My parents moved here 30 years ago. Since they weren't from 'round these here parts, they assumed it was pronounced "ba-LIN-afad," so that's how we said it. Because that's how it looks, right? Wrong. Some local pronunciation quirk – known only to the town's longtime residents – means that Ballinafad is actually said "BAL-n-fad." But I just can't make my mouth say that, so I guess I'll always be a newcomer.

That's not the only local pronunciation that separates the oldies from the newbies. I've been told that Maria Street in Acton is actually pronounced "Mariah" because it was named after the daughter of one of the town's settlers and that's the way she said her name. Then there's the village of Erin, which I've heard some old-timers pronounce "Eerin." And, of course, there's Norval. You know you're dealing with an out-of-towner if they say "nor-VAL," like my friend from PEI once did.

So if you ever want to know how long someone has lived in Halton Hills, just listen to how they pronounce the names of certain local geographical landmarks. Or you could just ask how long they've lived here. That would probably work too.

But before you do that, I want you to sit back, put your feet up and enjoy this edition of *In Focus*. In these pages, you will find photos from local fundraisers, celebrations and a whole bunch of March Break activities. And remember: this is YOUR *In Focus*. Send me your photos and events and you could see yourself in our next issue!

Happy April!

Andrea Lefebvre
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Quirky facts from Halton Hills' past

The original **Georgetown High School**, which opened in 1887, was designed by Edward J. Lennox, who also designed Massey Hall and Old City Hall in Toronto. The building was torn down in 1959 and replaced with the current structure.

Norval was known as McNabsville, McNab's Mill and Esquesing Mills until the post office opened in the mid-1830s.

Sunderland Villa was a private house, a home for World War I veterans and a hotel before becoming a funeral home in 1937. Today it is the home of the MacKinnon Family Funeral Home.

Dominion Seed House, which was founded by William Bradley in 1928 on a corner of his family's farm, was the largest and most successful catalogue seed distributor in Canada. It remained in the Bradley family until 1993.

Before officially being named **Acton** in 1844, the town was known as Danville and Adamsville.

Georgetown's "873" phone number was added in 1986. The growth of Georgetown South caused "702" to be introduced in 1993.

Actonite or Actonian? How do YOU refer to the people of Acton?

Do you know any fun facts about Halton Hills? Send your information to **Andrea** at **ALefebvre@theifp.ca**.

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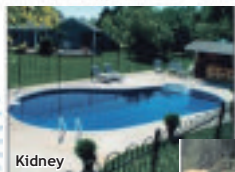
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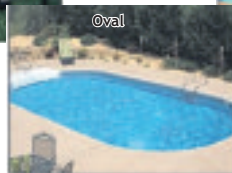
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