

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Try walking to school

Some lazy parents are sure not setting a very good example for their kids when it comes to getting them to and from McKenzie-Smith Bennett School. Clogged streets are a way of life twice a day on streets near the school as kids on foot, skateboard and bicycle face school busses and cars, many which are parked and stopped illegally as kids are dropped off or picked up.

Last week after a Kindergarten girl was bumped by a vehicle that had been illegally parked as its owner picked up his child, the Town cracked down and began enforcing the traffic bylaws on the surrounding streets. That didn't go over to well with the three parents who received \$50 tickets, or one dad who thought he'd been given the finger by a uniformed bylaw enforcement officer.

He parked his vehicle at the north end parking lot (where he probably should have gone to begin with) and walked back to the enforcement officer who explained he had only waved the man on, not given him the finger.

Whatever traffic improvements are made in the area – why does it take an accident to get action? – many of the safety problems would be solved if parents stopped driving their kids to and from school.



BOUNTIFUL DRIVE: Acton area residents generously donated over 5,000-pounds of food and \$589 in cash during Saturday's Scout/Guide/Cadet food drive to fill the shelves of Acton's FoodShare food bank. On hand helping sort donations at the scout Hall were Scout Isaac Daleman, Ranger Josiah Chang and Scout Kenneth Byers. – Ted Tyler photo

Mayor's Corner

By Rick Bonnette



Halton Hills is seeing a freight train coming right at it in the form of the 4-3 Superhighway that will slash through the heart of our community. The GTA West Corridor team is still trying to justify this highway, despite the fact Halton Hills Council has proved the 401 can be widened to 12 lanes, with next to no impact on the present land owners, on either side of the 401.

To me, this is the most cost effective method. Why does Council and residents continue to fight this 4-3 Superhighway? Not only are hundreds of rural land owners being directly impacted, but this will fundamentally change Halton Hills forever. Our rural area will eventually become urbanized like our nearby larger communities. Our vision, dreams and

strategic plan will be changed. Is this worth fighting for? You betcha! Why put Halton Hills through this exercise when dollars are at a premium? I will be meeting with Transport Minister Chiarelli in the up coming months.

Halton Hills was selected as the 37th best place to live across Canada by Money Sense Magazine. Ottawa, Burlington, Kingston, Halifax and Regina were the top five – we did fairly well on the list. We still have work to do, but at the same time we can be proud of what we have achieved.

What I am not proud of is the graffiti that is everywhere. Graffiti costs taxpayers and business owners big bucks to clean up. Parents, please talk to your kids

about the impact of graffiti.

Last month I delivered Meals on Wheels with Links2Care. This is a marvellous service we have in the Town. I would like to thank Janet who took me around, and I would like to also thank all of the volunteer drivers for delivering hearty meals to our seniors and our disabled adults. For more information call Brenda at (905) 873-6502 or Janet at (519) 853-3310.

Drop by the Civic Centre and visit the Mayor's art wall, currently showcasing local artist Liz Zahara.

Congratulations to brothers Paul and Chris Latour - CGA Professional & C Sharp Music Academy on their grand opening in Acton.

Keeping it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342, or by email at mayor@haltonhills.ca or read my blog at www.rickbonnette.blogspot.com or follow me on twitter at: @Rick-Bonnette1

Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

- Acton's Bronwyn Marshall, a member of the senior Black Ice team, brought home a Bronze medal from the World synchronized skating championships in France.
- Two teenaged Georgetown girls narrowly escaped injury after stranding their car on the rail tracks on the Third Line near the entrance to the quarry. The girls jumped out as their car was hit by a speeding VIA passenger train.

Five Years Ago

- The 16th annual Scout/Guide/Cadet food drive gathered approximately 7,000-pounds of food and \$381 in cash for Acton's FoodShare food bank.
- Town staff is instructed to do a special inspection of all playground/park equipment in Halton Hills after razor blades were found in mulch at playground equipment in an Oakville park.



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