

## Proposed Green building standard revisions

Concerns from the building/development industry that the Town's proposed Green Building Standards are too prescriptive, too costly, include too much red tape and are not tailored to Halton Hills were detailed for Council at a recent meeting by the consultant hired to draft the new policy, designed to help evaluate the performance, efficiency and sustainability of new development.

Consultant Lorelei Jones of McCaulay Shiomi Howson Ltd., said the second generation green building requirements would update and enhance the Town's existing Green Development Evaluation Checklist. The new standards would reduce home/building operating costs, create healthy neighbourhoods. Lower emissions, make efficient use of infrastructure, improve resource efficiency and benefit the overall quality of life in Town. The Green Development Evaluation Checklist will continue to be required as part of the development/building application process, and successful comple-

tion would be the basis for allocating water to the project.

Jones said feedback from the building/development industry led to changes in the draft Standards to answer concerns about the cost, to make them less vague, to make them easier to achieve and to provide incentives. Each Green criterion has now been assigned a numerical score and builders would be required to satisfy a minimum number of points by choosing criteria most appropriate for them.

Jones said the first draft had a list of criteria broken down into three sections – low-rise residential, low-rise non-residential and mid-to-high rise, and within each were both required and voluntary requirements with incentives.

She said given concerns about the cost and rigidity, the Standards proposed are now more flexible with a numerical score for each. "Then the builder is required to satisfy a minimum number of points and they get to choose the ones they get to satisfy, as

long as they add up to the minimum number they need to satisfy..." Jones said, adding they would need to achieve 40 per cent of the maximum required points.

When Regional/Acton Councillor Clark Somerville said he was worried about increasing the number of required points and asked about the timeframe for requiring developers/builders to achieve higher number of points, ultimately up to 100 per cent. Jones said the required points should be reviewed within two years of approval of the Standards.

Georgetown Councillor Ann Lawlor said she was "nervous" that the building/development industry would find the Standards onerous and the Town could arrest development. Regional/Ward Two Councillor Jane Fogal noted they don't have the authority to make demands beyond the Ontario Building Code. She said after asking the builder/development industry for input she is, "Somewhat confident the Standards we are asking are beyond the Ontario Building



**PRODUCE PRODUCER:** Brampton shoppers Tryntje and Ali Vander Hyde were checking out the booth of local produce vender Mel Bailey last Thursday at the Acton Farmer's Market – Ted Tyler photo

Code...but I think they are achievable...and will achieve a better product on the market in Halton Hills."

Mayor Rick Bonnette called the revised Standards a step in the right direction and exciting and will change the way buildings are built, for the better. "I'm rather excited to see the next steps," he said. The next steps include a policy and regulatory review, a report to Council by the end of the month and co-ordination with the Town's on-going Development Guidelines study.

## Opps.....



The Miss Acton second runner-up was unfortunately wrongly identified in last week's issue of The New Tanner. Sarah Cunningham (left) is the second runner-up. The New Tanner regrets the error

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If you are between the ages of 16 and 22, attend Acton High School or live in Acton, Limehouse, Ballinafad or Rockwood areas, you are invited to be a Contestant!!!

More information is available at Blooms Away Flower Shop,  
[www.actonfair.ca](http://www.actonfair.ca) or Email: [missactonfallfair@hotmail.com](mailto:missactonfallfair@hotmail.com)

CONTESTANTS MUST BE AVAILABLE  
WED. & THURS. SEPT 12th & 13th @ 7 p.m.  
Deadline for entries is 9 p.m., Friday, September 7, 2012