



# Ignition at Light Up The Hills



**LIGHT UP THE HILLS:** The Colorado Blue Spruce tree at Acton's eastern gateway will be lit up nightly from now until the New Year following the Light Up The Hills ceremony on Saturday night. Counting down, BIA manager Josey Bonnette (left) helped Santa Claus and Mayor Rick Bonnette with the electricity, cheers from volunteer Kathleen Dills. – Ted Tyler photo



**I'VE BEEN GOOD:** Some kids – like Acton's Chloe MacLeod, 6, – were a little bashful when they met Santa Claus at the Light Up the Hills tree ignition ceremony. – Ted Tyler photo

## Town Digest

### Conflict careful

The spectre of Toronto Mayor Rob Ford being turfed from office because of an undeclared pecuniary interest was on the minds of Halton Hills councillors at their meeting last Monday, just hours after the court ruled on Ford's violation of the provincial Conflict of Interest legislation by voting on an issue which could have benefited him financially.

At the beginning of the meeting, three councillors declared potential conflicts on particular agenda items involving their employer, their residence or land near their property. The councillors refrained from commenting on or voting on the issue for which they declared the conflict.

Following the meeting, Mayor Rick Bonnette agreed with the judge's comment that the Conflict of Interest legislation is a "sledgehammer" but is the rule of law. He said at the beginning of each term they educate new councillors and give them a guide – Ford said he didn't read his.

"It is not hard to follow the legislation – staff often will tell a councillor of a potential conflict,

but ultimately, it's up to each councillor to ensure he or she does not have a potential conflict before dealing with an issue," Bonnette said.

### One more extension

The owner of a proposed eight-lot residential subdivision in Henderson's Corners may have one more extension of the deadline for getting draft subdivision approval – but that is it.

The so-called Bosnjak subdivision, on the north east corner of Trafalgar Road and 22 Side Road, has been on the books since 1986, and has been granted numerous extensions over the years. The most recent November 30 deadline came and went without the applicant fulfilling all of the conditions set out in the last extension approval.

But, based on progress made by the applicant since splitting with an adjacent developer, Town staff recommended that another one-year extension be approved – to November 30, 2013. At a recent general committee meeting, planning consultant Glenn Wellings admitted they still have work to do, but have made progress on out-

standing issues.

Voicing the frustration of many councillors, Regional/Acton Councillor Clark Somerville asked staff if they "really feel this is the last time you'll be here for an extension?" Noting the past extensions, Somerville wanted assurance than another one-year extension is realistic and that the required work to register the subdivision will be done by the developer in time.

John Linhardt, the Town's Director of Planning, Development and Sustainability called the application "unique" in the time it has taken to get this far in the development process. He noted if Council refused

the extension and the application was closed, the developer could file another application because development is planned for the settlement area of Henderson's Corners.

### Budget overruns

High ground water levels, found late in the game, are to blame for a \$99,799, or 21 per cent, cost overrun on a bridge replacement project on the 10 Side Road, west of Highway 25.

Regional/Georgetown Councillor Jane Fogal questioned the budget overage at a recent general committee meeting, and also asked about delays in replacing the bridge on 27 Side Road, north-east of Ballinafad.

Chris Mills, the Town's Director of Infrastructure Services and Engineer said this year they did further environmental work, mainly required by Credit Valley Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources with regard to the Endangered Species Act. "It does look like we good to go to start construction next year as apart of the 2013 program. It will be a challenging bridge," Mills said, noting it is listed as a historical stone bridge.

Fogal also asked for clarification if the Town planned to upgrade 27 Side Road, which is

currently a gravel road, noting a new bridge would increase tourist visits to the area.

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