

MAYOR'S CORNER

By: Rick Bonnette



Halton Hills takes issues to Cabinet Ministers

Last month, Halton Regional Councillors along with our Halton Hills delegation (Councillor Somerville, Inglis, Kentner and Albano) went to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference (AMO). We had several meetings booked with Ontario Cabinet Ministers and we brought our long 'shopping list' of local community needs to these meetings.

Minister DelDuca gave an update to the Mayors (including yours truly) who are involved with the Kitchener GO Line. He gave us an update regarding the Two Way All Day Go Service. Mayors at the table are pushing for this extended service.

While in another meeting with Minister DelDuca, I raised the concern in regards to the transportation challenges that are arising for the numerous stakeholders and jurisdictions in the area of Steeles Avenue, Trafalgar Road and Highway 401. I asked the minister to participate in a joint task

force which would include all jurisdictions being affected in this area to be included. I had also questioned the Minister on the GTA West Corridor and he said a decision was coming in the fall.

We met with Attorney General Minister Naqvi and Minister Flynn regarding the progress of the replacement of the Milton Courthouse and we were told that work is progressing with this issue. Other Ministers we met with include: Minister of Education, Mitzie Hunter and Han Dong MPP and Parliamentary Assistant, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills regarding our China file as well as other educational opportunities.

The Minister of Energy assured us there would be no forced amalgamation of local utilities.

Our councillors also attended many municipal related education sessions throughout the conference.

I and MPP Ted Arnott met with PC leader, Patrick Brown to discuss other local issues. So as you can see, it

was a full two days in Windsor to deliver our shopping list to Halton Hills.

Congratulations to the Halton Hills Lifeguard Club in taking third at provincials.

There's a lot happening in Halton Hills this month, here are just few

- Acton Fall Fair: September 16-18
- Craft Beer Festival: September 17 – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Trafalgar Sports Park (100 per cent of proceeds go to local charities, this year it's Food4Kids)
- Terry Fox Run: September 20th - Acton High School Track and the Gellert Centre
- Walk or Run for Georgetown Hospital: Gellert September 25, @ 9 a.m.

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. You can also follow me on twitter at: @RickBonnette1

Vote for Food for Life in the CIT Foodortunity contest

By: Jane Dougan

Food for Life – a simple three-word phrase. Yes, you need food to sustain life. Yes, the need for food is life-long. For hundreds in Halton Hills it's not a simple phrase: it's a question mark, a challenge, a bitter ache in the gut. Especially fresh, nutritious food that's not in a tin; fruit, vegetables, meat, bread. Especially perhaps getting to choose it for yourself.

Food for Life (FFL) is a nationally-accredited fresh food outreach program based in Burlington. Program Manager Donna Slater emphasizes its importance in neighbourhoods where lack of public transportation is a barrier, like Acton — “a really wonderful community where everybody looks out for everyone else”. Last March's annual Hunger Count showed FFL served 878 Halton Hills clients in one month, one-third under 17. A worrying trend is the increase in support needed by “working poor”, those who struggle to provide healthy nutrition despite being employed.

Awareness and action can come from surprising sources. CIT is a US-based financial holding company with offices in Burlington and Toronto. For the third time, FFL is nominated in its Foodortunity contest; online votes to www.cit.com/foodortunity are due by September 2. Tina McBride of CIT Burlington explains that each office nominates one local food bank. There are company food drives, and 80 per cent of staff use an annual program allowing a paid 'day off' to volunteer.

When FFL trucks visit Acton each Thursday, they make a number of

stops and meet a variety of needs. Shirley Feddema, Community Life Coordinator at Bethel Church, explains how volunteers ('gentlemen') sort and deliver perishable food to 18 different Acton families. Parishioner Tom Silvis has coordinated Bethel FFL for years; Oscar Feenstra and Richard van der Waal are taking on the task.

At St. Albans, food is a base for social togetherness. Kati Nuttall and Keith Smith coordinate volunteers who bring perishables from FFL trucks to the church hall to be sorted, ready for 35-45 families and single people who come each week to peruse and choose. Kati explains “it's not all about food, it's also about community and being comfortable.” Coffee and cookies encourages socialization. “We might get a large piece of meat; we're not allowed to cut it up here, so we'll find 2 or 3 families to come together to share it”.

FFL in Acton is supported by donations from individual farmers and companies (e.g. Andrew's Scenic Acres, Allison's Farm Market, Giant Tiger). Volunteers at Lakeview Villa Senior's Supportive Housing bring fresh food from trucks to a common area for tenants to “come and pick what they like. They depend on it for free fresh food”. Cathy Gerrow at Links2Care also relies on FFL support to help reach out and feed seniors, families and youth.

Food for Life – three simple words that mean a lot in our community. For more information, contact Donna Slater at Food For Life at 905 635-1106, x 221; or email donna@foodforlife.ca.



**FALL
CLASSES
STARTING
SOON!**

REGISTRATION DATES

Thurs August 25 ••• 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Wed August 31 ••• 5:30 - 7:30 pm

OFFERING: Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Acrobatics,
Hip Hop, Musical Theatre,
Contemporary,
and Much More

GREAT NEW LOCATION!

Sharing Our Love of Dance Since 1998

12 Church St. E., Acton 519-853-8628

www.totaldanceinnovations.com

email: info@totaldanceinnovations.com

*The family at
Achilles Mazda
would like to express
our condolences and
our deeply felt loss
at the passing of
our good friend and
outstanding team member
Cecil Young*



Achilles Mazda of Milton

1-95 Steeles Ave E, Milton • 519-563-0200 • www.achillesmazda.ca

Cecil Young
August 22, 2016

TED ARNOTT, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills

Web: www.tedarnottmpp.com

Phone: 1-800-265-2366

