

EDITORIAL

Housing déjà vu

From the archives of the late Hartley Coles, Editor Emeritus

Construction on hundreds of east end Acton homes may seem to be something new – and it is – but it's a fact that 700 homes were proposed in the same area as far back as 1974, when a provincial housing initiative was launched. Earlier that same year Goldfan Holdings Ltd. applied to build 1500 housing units on the east side of Acton.

At the time the Province was trying to speed up housing projects and Alliance Ex-Urban and Bovis Homes planned 700 homes because the companies believed the 1500 proposed by Goldfan far exceeded provincial guidelines. At the time, also, the Ministry of Housing indicated population limits cited in the Toronto Centred Region Plan would be removed, some overloading of sewage plants allowed, as well as limited acceptance of septic tanks and modified criteria for flood plain lands.

It was a time when affordable housing was limited, or nonexistent, so 10 per cent of the development was set aside for the Home Ownership Made Easy (HOME) program, 30 per cent would be sold to families with incomes averaging \$20,000 to \$35,000. The remainder would be sold at a price 10 percent below the current market price.

Of course, the development never got off the ground. Twenty-eight years later the first houses are actually going up on the former McCullough and Sprowl farms and will soon be constructed on the north side of Hwy 7 in a development named Honeyfield.

The price of housing has escalated since 1974 but start thousands of dollars less than similar developments in nearby communities. However, unlike 1974, no provision has been made for affordable housing programs operated by the province. The pendulum has swung in the other direction. For some people it means they'll never be able to afford a house.

It's a pity.



DREAMY DEVILLE: At a recent Sold Your Way Estate Auction conducted on Highway 7, Joe Coadly and Matthew DaRosa admired a 1959 Cadillac Deville which was among the many cars and household items that were up for grabs. – Marie Shadbolt photo

Respect Mother Nature



By
Angela Tyler

On Monday we were traveling across the QEW from a pre-Skyway Bridge disaster planned long weekend excursion. We had rerouted around the blocked bridge and were surprised how well traffic was moving considering the volume of cars that bridge closure affects, let alone being a holiday weekend.

By this point the kids were getting restless as the detour extended our drive by an extra hour, give or take. Between the DVD player and the kids, our music playing on the radio and the traffic around us, there were a lot of distractions. Then just around the area of the QEW and Guelph Line, it hit. It was sudden and stupendous. It was such a strong rain storm, I haven't seen one quite like that in three years. It was about 3:30 p.m. As the rain struck our truck, it had all our attention, and I quickly quieted the kids so full attention could be focused on the road to get us through it safely.

We saw the dark clouds, I even commented to the Dude how scary it must be to live in a place like Tornado Alley, yet we were safe at that moment. We dodged the storm, staying slightly ahead of it and by the time it caught us in the Milton area it wasn't nearly as

strong.

Later that night, I saw something online about flooding in Burlington. I took a glance at a local news stations' website to see if there was a story and I was astounded by the information and pictures I was seeing. From road closures with people kayaking in the middle of major thoroughways to water in people's homes, deep enough to come up to their staircase steps. It was astonishing. I couldn't believe some of the roads we were just on were flooded so bad that they were closed with some people still stuck on them. I read later that the City of Burlington received two months rainfall in less than two hours. That is unbelievable.

Last month we had a heavy rain that impacted the Toronto area, on the same date as last year's storm that hit Toronto and flooded the DVP. Some homes were uninhabitable for months. How bizarre is it that a heavy rain storm would hit the same spot on the same day a year apart?

I remember a rainfall of the

same magnitude of the storm that hit Burlington and it had the same impact on me as far as a startling reminder of what Mother Nature is capable of. Three years ago May, I remember getting caught in a sudden rainfall, hiding under the eaves for cover while trying to make it to our front door. It was that storm that flooded our fully finished basement and turned into a yearlong nightmare. It was seven months until we could use that room again and a few days short of a year until everything was settled. We did lose some things in our flood, however, thankfully not very many things that were irreplaceable.

The other day I was chatting with a friend and talking about weather, for example when things like an ice storm that leaves you without hydro or an incredible rainfall leaves you with a flooded home, or when lightning strikes and injures or kills I have learned one important thing, we all need to respect "Mother Nature" and when a storm is brewing of any kind we need to be prepared and know when to take shelter, and most importantly material things aren't what is important. Being safe and keeping your family safe is priority.

PAST PAGES



10 YEARS AGO

- Acton High School student Kaitlin Andrews attended the Canadian Junior Track and Field Championship in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Andrews entered in the Women's under 19 placed fourth in shot put and third in discus throw
- After the Guelph Rod and Gun Club operating in Eden Mills with 315 members extended their operating days and hours, area residents voiced their concerns at Guelph/Eramosa council who agreed to approach their lawyer about what to do.

5 YEARS AGO

- As a result of over \$208,000 of Provincial funding, Halton Region was able to provide more job training to local residents. Funding for the Regional Labour Market Partnership allowed them to better research and assist small and medium businesses with training and development.
- Hogweed was found on Third Line south of 15 sideroad, causing the Town to issue an alert. The dangerous plant which resembles Queen Anne's Lace can cause dangerous blisters to humans and pets.



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