

EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Competing agendas

Twice in recent weeks, politicians from neighbouring municipalities have independently said they'd like to get some of the politicians at Queen's Park in the same room at the same time to discuss controversial issues that will impact life as we know it.

The first to suggest improving communication to balance agendas at Queen's Park was Halton Hills Regional/Ward Two Councillor Jane Fogal, during recent debate over how to fight provincial plans for two major expressways – one 12 lanes wide which could slice through prime agricultural land in south Halton Hills.

Fogal said she's pretty sure the Environment Minister "isn't pleased" with the highway plan, and doubts that the Ministry of Health thinks it's a great idea, and likewise the Ministry of Agriculture "can't be thrilled."

The frustration of competing agendas at Queen's Park was echoed by Guelph/Wellington Township councillors last week during debate over the proposed 258-unit Noble Ridge subdivision in south Rockwood.

Traffic generated by that development is a huge issue with residents and Township councillors, including Councillor Doug Breen who noted that the Province is forcing higher densities on the Township – densities they don't want, which will create additional traffic, necessitating a traffic light which the Ministry of Transportation said is not warranted.

Mayor Chris White noted that the density rules mean more classrooms will be needed at the already overcrowded Rockwood Centennial School, yet there's no provincial cash for a new school. White said part of the problems is that the provincial ministers are isolated in "silos."

Noting that the province in election mode, and many issues are in a "holding pattern," until after the October vote, the local politicians vow to continue to lobby for their constituents, despite the competing interests of the various ministries. Good luck.



WATER WORKS: Acton's Owen McLelland, 5, splish-splashed to his heart's delight at the Superior splash pad as part of his Canada Day fun. – Frances Niblock photo

Letters

Highway a death toll

To the editor,

As a long-time resident of nearby Speyside, I was appalled to read about plans to build a highway to by-pass Acton. They can call this road whatever they want, but the results will surely be the same. The death of downtown Acton.

My wife and I walked through town at 9:15 p.m., on Monday night and there were

not three people walking the streets. I presume that there was no reason for them to be out. With the ice cream shop long gone, and not really anything to draw people out from inside of their homes, it looked like a ghost town.

To make matters worse it appears that we have more empty stores than we have ever seen at one time in the 27 years we have

lived in the area. There must be some disconnect here because we have more people living in town that we did back in 1984. It appears that downtown Acton just likely needs some type of boost to help it get back to its former glory not the kick in our face that the province wants to bestow upon us.

Chuck Snow
Speyside Ontario

Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

- Rail crossing gates with flashing lights will be installed at the Main Street North level crossing by fall, but traffic signals must wait until funding is available.
- After 30 years of teaching at Acton High School, rural Acton's Dave Boycott retired.
- Town officials said while the goose poop that fouls Prospect Park may be a nuisance, it is not a safety or health hazard, and the Town will not cull the flock.

Five Years Ago

- Dufferin Aggregates donated \$200,000 in cash and goods to the Acton Agricultural Society for its new building in Prospect Park.
- One month old Tyler Irwin of Acton was killed in a two-vehicle crash in Caledon. His mother, Melissa Irwin was hospitalized with non-life threatening, critical injuries.
- Cogeco Cable added closed captioning to its video/audio coverage of Town Council meetings.



THE NEW TANNER

PUBLISHING LTD.

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Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2
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Distributed to every home in Acton and area, as well as adjoining communities.

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