

Town Digest

Ag. request

The GTA Agricultural Action Committee (A.A.C.) is looking for a new mandate and more funding from its members so it can continue to influence policy-makers about

agricultural issues. In an update to Halton's Planning and Public Works committee last week, AAC spokesperson Janet Horner said the \$200,000 they received in 2005 from each of its mem-

bers – Durham, Halton, Peel and York Regions, Toronto, the federal and provincial governments and GTA Federations of Agriculture – will run out next year.

Horner detailed some of the work done on the A.A.C.'s 37-point action plan with its three main themes – economic development, education/marketing and land-use policy. She said a major accomplishment is that GTA municipalities, planners and economic development officials are now working together to ensure issues are dealt with in a consistent manner.

Red Light cameras return

In an effort to modify bad and dangerous driver behaviour, Halton will reintroduce a red light camera enforcement program, which, at least initially, won't include any Acton locations.

Eleven years ago, Halton was part of provincial pilot project to determine if red light cameras improved safety at locations with high incidents of right-angle collisions caused by red light running. Halton participated for two years, but dropped out due to low numbers of violations. Now, Regional staff is convinced that red light cameras reduce right-angle collisions, improve driver compliance with traffic signals, reduces the severity of collisions and

injuries and reduces costs for emergency services, health care and insurance claims.

At its meeting yesterday (Wednesday) Halton Council was expected to ratify a committee vote to resume participation in the program, initially with one camera in Burlington and one in Oakville this year. Over the next three years, 12 intersections will be outfitted with the cameras, which will relay data about violators to a joint process centre in Toronto.

The annual cost to run the program is \$83,000 per location – that's \$215,000 for the initial two sites to the end of next year. The fine for running a red is \$265 with a \$50 victim surcharge.



MAJOR SPRUCE-UPS: Crews are hard at work on two Acton businesses, making major changes and improvements to the Mill Street variety store (top) rebranded Daisy Mart, where contractor Todd Kri is hard at work and in Acton East where the Glenlea plaza is getting a major facelift. – Ted Tyler photos

Swastika graffiti investigated

The timing, symbols and colours of graffiti left at five Acton locations overnight Monday lead Halton police to suspect the vandalism incidents are related.

Swastikas were spray-painted at two locations – Acton High School and on three stop signs in the Third Line/ 32 Side Road area. Gold spray paint was used to deface the front of the off The Wall youth centre on Mill Street, and on the rear window and door at the Town Hall Centre on Willow Street.

"We're concerned with any type of graffiti but any time someone is out there putting up swastikas, it causes us even more concern," said Detective Sergeant Murray Drinkwater on Wednesday.

Police want witnesses to call 905-878-5511 ex. 2113 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

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Local farms are invited to be a part of

"A Guided Tour of Halton Farms"

Halton Region is updating its award-winning "A Guided Tour of Halton Farms" brochure, a part of the Simply Local initiative. If you are a local farm offering Halton-grown agricultural products and services directly to the community and would like to be included in this brochure, contact Halton's Planning Services for more information. We will be accepting new listings up to August 12, 2011.

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Please let us know as soon as possible if you will have an accessibility or accommodation need at a Halton Region hosted event or meeting.

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