

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

Halton Region – already a leader in waste diversion in Ontario – has a new five-year goal, approved by Council on Wednesday, to achieve a 65 per cent waste diversion goal, up from the current 57.4 per cent.

The new Waste Management Strategy includes six initiatives – enhancing promotion, education and outreach, expanding existing textile diversion options, enhancing multi-residential waste diversion, expanding special waste drop off events, expanding the list of acceptable Blue Box recycling materials and decreasing the number of garbage bags that can be put at the curb and introducing a new bag tag fee – \$1 to \$2.

The new strategy – which will cost \$8.5-million from 2012 to 2016 – will extend the life of the Halton landfill site in Milton by four years, and will cost taxpayers an additional \$2.47 cents per \$100,000 of current value assessment.

Following four public information workshops, a “virtual” online workshop, and telephone surveys of 800 residents, Halton’s consultants came up with the waste diversion strategy which includes, for the first time, a per bag fee. Currently, residents can put up to six bags of garbage at the curb every two weeks – under the new plan, only three bags can be put out with as bag tag – possible \$1 or \$2, for each additional bag.

A look at a “typical” bag of garbage found that it contains a lot of material that should be recycled, including 13 per cent of material that should go in the Blue Box and 23 per cent suitable for the GreenCart.

Most people will be more selective of what they put out as trash, if they are required to pay for additional bags – a much fairer way to pay than adding it to property taxes.

## Looking Back



### Ten Years Ago

- Acton skateboarders, BMXers and bladers interested in having a skateboard facility in town were invited to an informal drop-in at the High School to determine if there’s enough interest to set up a formal committee.

- Grade eight students at St. Joseph Catholic School, upset by terrorist attacks in the United States, raised over \$1,900 by staging an overnight retreat. The money was sent to the Knights of Columbus in New York.

- The delectable spreads submitted by Acton’s Gerry Byrne won first place in two categories at the Royal Winter Fair, including strawberry jam made with fruit from Andrew’s Scenic Acres and raspberry jam made with fruit from MacMillan’s.

### Five Years Ago

- With an eight-to-one margin and 88 per cent of the vote, incumbent Mayor Rick Bonnette coasted to re-election, trouncing opponent Rob Heaton. Acton’s Brent Marshall was defeated by Gary Carr for the Halton Chairman’s position.

- The Town filed a Freedom of Information request after the Office of the Public Guardian, citing privacy rules, refused to release results of testing on a vacant Peel Street residence and two storage bins that neighbours want moved.

- While the Acton housing market has cooled off – sales are down and prices have softened – the market was still “good and stable” according to local real estate agents.



**FAMILY FLU FIGHTERS:** The Hilts family of Acton – Dad Adam, sons Nathan and Brett and Mom Megan, were all brave as they received a flu shot from Halton paramedic Steve Quaggiotto at a Halton clinic last Wednesday at the Acton arena/community centre. – Frances Niblock photo

# I love a parade

I am not pleased with the weather forecast for the weekend. On Saturday, it is calling for showers, cloudy and a temperature of 46 degrees – sorry I am old school when it comes to temperature. For those of you that are metric for temperature, let’s just say you’ll need your rain boots and rain coat, not a sub-arctic winter coat.

Why is Saturday’s weather so important? What is the official kick off of the Christmas season? The answer to both is it’s our Santa Claus Parade of course, and it’s this Saturday, and for a Santa Claus parade I think we need snow or at least snowflakes in the air, not umbrellas in our hand.

I have always loved our Santa Claus parade. There are two things our Fire Department do really well besides put out fires, and that is our Canada Day fireworks display and our Santa Claus parade. I really don’t know which is better, but both are amazing.

Our Santa Claus parade is more than a parade. It is not only fantastic and quite lengthy (in a good way) but it is a time where people congregate, regroup and just enjoy. It’s sort of like the Fall Fair weekend condensed in a few hours. You meet up with family, friends and people you haven’t seen in a bit, while at the



By  
Angela Tyler

same time have a really nice outing.

I think the key to the parade being as successful as it is, is because there is a balance between the number of floats and marching bands. Too many floats and not enough bands just makes for what resembles a traffic jam.

Speaking of a potential traffic jam; the parade is spaced properly and much better than other parades in the area. It might seem like an easy task to drive something slowly down the street however, it is the farthest thing from actual. Making a parade run smoothly without massive gaps that leave spectators bored and wanting to leave, takes float drivers who pay attention, marching bands who know when to march and play and when to stand still, and organizers who have enough experience to pace the parade properly from the start of the line. Lucky for us, Bill Spielvogel and his wife, along with our Fire Department have enough “parade miles on their belt” to know these things as well.

Rain, rain go away, come again in

the spring one day. On Saturday, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. My best memories of our Santa Claus parade have been the ones where I’ve been so cold I thought I was going to snap in half waiting for Santa to show up. Then when you get home, you can cuddle under a blanket with some hot chocolate to try and get warmed up.

Another great parade coming up is the Rockwood Farmers’ Parade of Lights in December. Although I love our parade, I love this one too although you really can’t compare the two. Over the years, I have watched the Rockwood parade, I have come to finally realize two very important things. First, if you want to have a decent place to park you need to get there early and I mean EARLY! The little village of Rockwood, I have heard grows to the size of Acton on parade night. The other vital certainty is, no matter what the thermometer says, metric or imperial, the night of the parade is always freezing and I mean FREEZING! However, despite the cold, it is well worth it to see the awesome spectacle of lights.

Two great parades, both worth attending no matter what the weather. I hope you get out to both of them to help celebrate the season.



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