

Fight for hydro is looming

Halton Hills Hydro will not be forced to sell or forced to merge with a larger utility without a fight. There was a provincial review done by Murray Elston, David McFadden and Floyd Laughren (representing all three parties) to revisit whether there are too many hydro utilities in Ontario.

They recommended:

- The 73 local hydros be consolidated to 8-12 and should have 400,000 customers (over a million people per utility)

- Should be done within two years

Whenever there is a forced merger or sale that isn't based on a strong business case it usually has a negative impact on cost. Reliability of our service to our residents can be jeopardized. I fear if this is approved that years down the road there may be a monopoly of perhaps three or four utilities in all of Ontario.

They claim there will be a savings of \$70 on your hydro bill in 10 years' time. Hogwash! Legal fees from the sale or merger or hiring five more vice-presidents will eat this up. Who wants to be swallowed up by a utility serving over a million people?

There may be cases in Ontario where a sale or merger might make sense. Right now, there is no case for Halton Hills to do so. Statistics show our residents enjoy the lowest rates in the region. We ranked sixth out of 73 utilities in Ontario based on operations and maintenance costs. The Town benefits from steady dividends to assist in our budget.

Hopefully the panel's review will be put

Rick Bonnette



in a recycling box where it belongs.

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Congratulations to the winners of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce 2012 Business Achievement Awards:

Entrepreneur of the Year: Andrea Clark, Tanner's Pub and Grill

Employee of the Year: Nancy LaRose, Acton Salvation Army Thrift Store

Business of the Year: Acton Home Hardware

Green Award: Georgetown BIA

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Congratulations to Pam and Bill MacGillivray on being the first husband and wife recipients of the Hockey Heritage Award.

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The Town's Spring and Summer Recreation Guide comes out this week and program registration starts March 6.

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Big Brother Big Sister bowling event on February 24 at Georgetown Bowl.

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Congratulations to Royal LePage Escarpment Realty, Acton on its grand opening.

—Rick Bonnette is the mayor of Halton Hills



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