

Opinion

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.

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Getting our second wind

Halton Hills This Week is embarking on its second year as 'Your independent voice in Halton Hills' and as our readers have no doubt noticed, our look has changed somewhat.

We will be going from a five-column format to a sleeker six-column format which will also allow us to expand our news hole in

the coming weeks.

In addition, our Editorial Page has been transformed into an Opinion Page, allowing for more freedom of expression from our readers.

Other changes will follow, all aimed at servicing our readers and in turn, our community of Halton Hills.

Colin Gibson

Legion meet a success

To the Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children who participated in the Second Annual Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 Track and Field Event.

This day was a great event and was possible through all of the volunteers who dedicated their time to the children and community. To these people, I offer my appreciation and thank you for a job well done.

I would like to give mention to Leanne Hall and Gary Southworth, my two co-event chairpersons, for the amount of time, effort and coordination they put into

making this day the success it was.

To Barb Anger, Parks and Recreation, a big thank you for helping me through the paperwork and permits required for such an event.

On behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, Georgetown, a thank you to Colin Gibson, editor of Halton Hills This Week, for his excellent coverage and pictures of this day and the publication of same.

Peter D. Smith
Track and Field Event
Chairman
Royal Canadian Legion,
Branch 120
Georgetown

Smith supporters thanked

To the Editor:

The 17th Annual Bill Smith Golf Tournament, held on June 21, was another great success with \$23,250 raised for the Georgetown Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society. This brings the money raised over the years to more than a quarter of a million dollars!

Sincere thanks are extended to the Committee Members, volunteers, individual spon-

sors, corporate and local businesses. Thanks to those who donated the many prizes for the draws, the golfers who came out to participate and to the public for their ongoing support.

The great coverage by Halton Hills This Week and The Independent is very much appreciated.

Bill and Brad Smith
Georgetown

Cancer events appreciated

To the Editor:

Special thanks are extended to Bill Smith for his "Bill Smith Golf Tournament" and Ken Langdon for his "Classics Against Cancer Car Show". Each year, their committees spend a great deal of time planning these very worthwhile events. We know they start making plans for next year's show after the current one is finished and they always come up with very successful events.

The Georgetown Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society has always been the recipient of the funds raised at both the

"Classics Against Cancer Car Show" and the "Bill Smith Golf Tournament".

We want Bill, Ken and their hard-working committees to know how much we appreciate the job they do in hosting these two special events.

Thanks, also, to everyone who attends and supports our local Canadian Cancer Society office. You are very much appreciated. Thank you!

Marlene Kelman
Communications
Chairperson
Canadian Cancer Society
Georgetown

Pow-Wow unique event

To the Editor:

On behalf of our committee, I wish to thank you for your cooperation in publicizing our Pow-Wow news articles and especially Simon Wilson for his photographs which helped to keep the public aware of our plans.

Although attendance was down in our expectations, those who participated or attended the event agreed it was very successful.

It was a unique opportunity to combine a fund-raising event welcoming our Native Indian Children to demonstrate their culture through dance and song.

We will notify you shortly when a presentation will be made to the Georgetown & District Memorial Hospital.

Dorothy Hunt
Secretary Pow-Wow
Committee
Georgetown

Writing in defense of P.O.W.E.R.

To the Editor:

Your weekend "interrogative" asks, "Who does Barbara Halsall think she is?" This answer will try and balance the sound and fury of your editorial.

First, P.O.W.E.R. did not destroy the excellent Olde Hide House enterprise. Second, P.O.W.E.R. is not responsible for the allocation of water in Halton Hills which has resulted in constrained development for the municipality. The imminent OMB hearing to bring forward Acton development is the ultimate, legal way for protesting present water allocations. It is as democratic as any government process gets, so let it play through.

The region, in its wisdom, makes no provision for a trunk line from the lake, up Trafalgar Road, and into our township. Mr. Mohammed floated this gem, officially, for the first time last fall. It is absent in the Region's Development Charges, the process which taxpayers financed to look at the long term expansion needs, over a 10-year horizon, of regional resources, including water.

When regional staff were challenged in committee, by the local ratepayers group in the first quarter of 1992, they were assured by Engineering, "...that the many aquifers up there had all sorts of capacity." Our regional representatives

acceded to the Regional Development Charges, without protest.

Barbara Halsall is an unpaid, but elected, lobbyist. She has standing in a water debate, such as the recent townhall meeting. P.O.W.E.R. must regard potential deterioration in the Black Creek fish habitat as destroying a key argument in opposing the RSI proposal. In five years of debate, and millions of dollars of time and effort, this unique and singular argument is the sum total of the indifference and ineffectiveness of bureaucracy charged with supervising statutes to preserve the town's water. The stakes go well beyond the immediate

development in Acton.

Finally, Barbara Halsall has promoted the interests of her constituents, I am not one, as avidly as you have lobbied for yours, your advertisers. As such, she merits the same respect you demand in a free press. You, too, must earn this respect by avoiding, "Tis the tale of a fool, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Bill Hyde
Georgetown

Editor's note: By definition, a constituency is a group of voters that is represented by an elected legislator. A lobbyist is most definitely not a legislator and shouldn't presume to be.

Let Acton development go ahead

Editor's note: a copy of the following letter to Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner was filed with Halton Hills This Week for Publication

Mr. Garth Turner, MP:
 I applaud your efforts to try and focus attention on the serious situation in Acton. We need the olde Hide House companies in this town. I support and encourage your efforts to help them through this difficult period.

I was frustrated that the people from P.O.W.E.R. felt they had to take this opportunity to promote their view of how development should proceed. This meeting was clearly intended to discuss Acton's current problems and what could be done to improve our economic situation. We spent over half our time listening to P.O.W.E.R. and several council members argue over whose approach was correct.

For the record, I hate dumps - don't want one; I don't want to kill the fish - I love fish; I don't want to drain Fairy Lake - it's one of the reasons I live here; I do want the development in Acton East to proceed with all dispatch. Our town needs to grow. Our businesses need a larger population base to survive. We need more people to support our services and we need them now.

We elect our councilors and empower them to make decisions on our behalf. We employ at town and region, specialists who have studied the water and sewer situation ad nauseam. They all agree this is a good plan. I say let's get the shovels in the ground, get those houses built and give our community a badly needed and long overdue shot in the arm.

I would remind any naysayers that our downtown

businesses are, for the most part, your neighbors. They work long and hard to make a living. They are the places where we work, where our kids work, who support our sports teams, our scouts, our guides, our schools, our charities and many other worthwhile causes. The closing (hopefully temporary) of the olde Hide House has substantially hurt them.

The loss of the Acton East development would be a further crippling blow.

I encourage you to intervene with the Department of Fisheries. Use your influence to promote this development. After it's in place, then we can continue to fight the dump. The two issues should never have been connected in the first place.

Thank you for your help in this matter. I fear that if this development is not approved, it's going to be a bleak 10 years ahead for the business community in Acton.

Michael J. O'Leary
President
Item Merchandising
Inc.
Acton

Editorial a 'personal vendetta'

To the Editor:

Garth Turner, in a "Letter to the Editor" on the front page of your June 23 edition, called for a townhall meeting in Acton that evening. There were three topics noted for the meeting:

1. "How do we deal with the economic recovery of Acton with the closure of the olde Hide House?"

2. "What can we do to stimulate growth and development in the town?"

3. "And at the same time, how do we address the concerns people have for the environment, and the process of warding of the quarry dump?"

It was disappointing to see the editorial of June 26 in Halton Hills This Week, miss the opportunity to address these issues involved with community concerns of additional development in Acton. It appears you have a personal vendetta to resolve, as the editorial took on a personal attack of Barbara Halsall.

Let there be no misunderstanding, everyone there was a member of a "special interest group". It seems to me that the concern of P.O.W.E.R. was how to proceed with development in Acton as well as protecting the drinking water of the communities downstream from the Acton Quarry. Since Georgetown is downstream to Acton sewage effluent, residents from

Georgetown have every right to be aware of what is taking place in Acton.

Garth stated the issues very clearly. These are the issues to be addressed! Elmira is one community well aware of ignoring the

short term concerns of their drinking water to end up "20 years later" with a very long term problem. Would you have us to likewise?

Fraser Robin
Georgetown

Back off, P.O.W.E.R.

To the Editor:

"Power is sandbagging Acton". That has to be the understatement of the year. Anyone attending the town hall meeting would have noticed the contradiction in the remarks that were made by P.O.W.E.R.'s Barb Halsall.

Statements such as "We are not opposed to development in Acton" and yet saying, "We do not want more effluence filling in Black Creek, we do not want the fish habitat to be destroyed in Black Creek."

It appears rather obvious that P.O.W.E.R. has no faith in what the Town of Halton

Hills and the region demands from development; that safety for its citizens and concern for the environment has to come first.

Sending a secret letter to fisheries Ministries has to be the most heinous thing to do by a person or group.

I hope the OMB hearing will prove that P.O.W.E.R. is dead wrong in its stand, and that its trip to power is over.

Barb Halsall, take the knife out of the back of this community!

Jake Kuiken
Acton

Letters Welcomed

Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request.

Halton Hills This Week reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any letters on the basis of factual errors, punctuation, spelling errors or as a result of space limitations.

Send your letter to:

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