

Opinion

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

Halton Hills This Week, Weekend edition is published every Saturday at 232 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1, and is printed in Oakville at Q.E. Web Printing. Halton Hills This Week claims copyright on all original editorial and advertising material created by its employees and reproduced by this newspaper. Such material may only be reproduced on written consent of the publisher. In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

PUBLISHER: Ken Bellamy **EDITOR:** Colin Gibson
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Kathleen Topolsek **CIRCULATION MANAGER:** Marie Shadbolt
OFFICE MANAGER: Jean Shewell

HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.

PHONE: 873-2254

FAX: 873-3918

Editorial

We can help ourselves

Last Wednesday I wrote about how Halton Hills residents shopping out-of-town weren't helping our local economy. This came about through discussions I had the previous week with a number of people; shoppers, merchants, friendlies and even unfriendlies - about how we in Halton Hills can help each other through the tough economic times we are experiencing.

From feedback from that editorial, coupled with my own impressions when I was conducting the informal poll, local business people and merchants could also do a bit more to alleviate our particular problem.

A number of mid-size communities throughout southern Ontario quite literally toss out the keys to the community to welcome weekend visitors - both shoppers and tourists.

Closer to home, a downtown outdoor market is now flourishing Saturdays on Main St. in Milton and according to a report in the Halton Business Journal, Sandy Martin, General Manager of the Milton Chamber of Commerce, estimates the market draws between 1,000 and 1,500 shoppers each week.

The same type of attractions could be staged weekends in both Acton and Georgetown, with very little trouble or complications.

If some kind of joint Georgetown-Acton merchants association was formed, our two communities could join forces in attracting visitors and shoppers.

A shuttle bus could run between the two communities (free of charge and once every hour) with the new association footing the bill. Better yet, a community-minded sponsor just might agree to foot the bill.

The new Georgetown Marketplace wouldn't suffer either, because when shoppers and visitors are attracted to a community, they make sure they make the rounds - see everything.

Cooperation between Georgetown and Acton merchants, would, of course, be the key and might not be as easy as envisioned.

Merchants in both communities told me that during special events, some of their brethren go all out with their support, while others do little more than sit back and rake in whatever profits come their way.

Obviously, this attitude would have to change.

Another complaint aired concerning merchants was their hours of business. Not opening when advertised and closing ahead of time.

Inconsistent refund policies apparently plague both Georgetown and Acton.

Cash refunds in some instances; store credits but no money refundable in others and in some of these stores, goods have to be purchased within a limited time period.

This didn't do the single mother I talked to much good. She explained she had purchased a pair of shoes for her young daughter. The shoes didn't fit. She didn't like any other shoes in the establishment, and couldn't get her money back. This policy, by the way, wasn't posted.

"Now what do I do?," she asked "I haven't got shoes for my daughter and I haven't got the money to go to another store!"

If all of us support our community, even to the extent of offering constructive criticism, we will pull through.

We've done it in the past, let's do it again.

Colin Gibson

The People's Corner

Full Feedback Canada explanation needed

Editor's note: The following letter was released to Halton Hills This Week for Publication to Mr. Craig Copland President

I understand that your organization has terminated its association with Murray Russell and Sherilyn Kirpatrick, founders of Feedback Canada, effectively putting them out of business.

I know quite a bit about the work of Feedback

Canada, this grassroots organization that last summer distributed 800,000 pounds of fresh farm produce to foodbanks and shelters in the Metro, Peel and Halton area. My son was one of the volunteers who worked so hard with Murray and Sherilyn to make Feedback Canada a success.

From my perspective, Feed the Children has treated these two dedicated young people very unjustly. I wonder what is going to

happen to the worthy work they have been doing - providing good food to increasing numbers of hungry Ontario residents.

At the very least, Feed the Children owes the public a full explanation on two issues:

1) How is Feed the Children going to ensure

that Feedback Canada's task of supplying fresh produce to foodbanks and shelters continues?

2) Why has Feed the Children made Murray and Sherilyn, the two key people, redundant in their own project?

Joan Cornfield
Georgetown

Copland offers explanation

Editor's note: Halton Hills This Week contacted Mr. Copland regarding the Feedback Canada situation, as it pertains to Halton Hills, and the President of Canadian Feed The Children Inc. faxed this reply.

Dear Ms. Cornfield:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 9, 1993 and the concerns you expressed, both for Murray and Sherilyn and the program of Feedback Canada.

Unfortunately, you appear to have received some inaccurate information about Feedback and I trust that the following clarification will be helpful.

Canadian Feed the Children Inc. was founded in 1986 and since that time, it has been able to send millions of dollars worth of food, clothing, medicines and medicinal supplies to children in Third World countries, particularly those facing emergency situations.

In the fall of 1991, Canadian Feed the Children made a decision to start to assist hungry children in Canada as well as overseas and instituted a domestic hunger relief program. In the early spring of 1992, we are approached by Murray and Sherilyn and asked if we could assist with the development of an idea they wanted to call Feedback Canada, which would augment our domestic program.

We suggested that they continue to develop Feedback as a separate incorporated agency and obtain their own charity registration number, with Canadian Feed the Children providing some logistical support. They declined this suggestion and instead chose to become full-time employees of Canadian Feed the Children and to develop Feedback as a program of CFTC. Since that time, Canadian Feed the Children has covered all the costs of Feedback, employed all full-time and part-time staff and provided employment benefits, issued all tax receipts for charitable donations, provided appropriate insurance coverage and conducted all

administrative activities which an employer normally does.

The program has grown quickly as a result of the fine efforts of all the CFTC staff involved, especially those of Murray and Sherilyn and we are very appreciated of the work done by these two employees. Some 60 food relief programs, shelters and children's feeding programs have received a regular supply of fresh produce through our services.

Although the program staff were given a lot of autonomy and freedom to develop the work the program has always been a facet of the work of CFTC and the staff have all been registered employees. The name "Feedback Canada" is registered and protected by Canadian Feed the Children Inc. as the name of our domestic program.

For a variety of reasons the Board and management of CFTC and Murray and Sherilyn came to a position where irresolvable differences had emerged between us and it was necessary to terminate their employment. CFTC provided to them a very generous settlement package and encouraged them to continue to do similar work in cooperation with another charity and even agreed to hand over about two-thirds of the existing program to them should they wish to manage it. Whether or not they choose to do so is up to them.

In the meantime, Canadian Feed the Children is continuing to operate the Feedback program as it had been previously and will continue to provide services to the many food relief programs we had served in the past. New staff have been put into place to manage the program and they will ensure that the donors and the recipients continue to be able to participate in this excellent program.

Craig Copland
President
CANADIAN FEED
THE CHILDREN INC.
Toronto

Support appreciated

To the Editor:

I wish to thank your newspaper for your service contribution to the 3rd annual Halton Hills Bike-A-Thon. Providing advertising, event promotion and an appreciation ad was a necessary component to the successful operation of this event. We appreciate your support. In addition, we are very pleased to inform you that this event was successful in raising over \$10,000 in support of North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped.

N.H.A.D.H. relies on contributions of various kinds, to assist in the

expense of providing quality service for, present, 143 citizens of North Halton. Support and sponsorship in special events from individuals and groups in our community indicates a shared investment in our goal of ensuring that people with developmental handicaps live in a state of dignity and have the opportunity to share and participate in all aspects of community living.

Again, I thank you and look forward to your support again next year.

Anne Sidebottom
Community Relations,
NHADH
Georgetown

Board decision must stand

Editor's note: The following letter was released to Halton Hills This Week for Publication.

**To: The Office of Consolidated Hearings
Re: Acton Quarry Landfill Proposal**

I have been urged by Hearing Board staff to present F.O.A.D.'s opinion regarding the status of RSI's application.

First, although Ontario Hydro's stated case was based on the board's decision with respect to RSI, RSI did not appeal its own decision, nor did RSI request a stated case or judicial review. In the absence of such a review, the board's decision must stand; the board does not have the jurisdiction to hear, determine or decide.

Second, we are concerned about the precedent which would be set were RSI able to employ information from Ontario Hydro's stated case to "reopen" their hearing. Case law enables the continuing development of our interpretation of specific acts. For obvious reasons, this process does not accommodate the review of past decisions in light of new interpretations.

We are of the opinion

that the Consolidate Hearing regarding RSI's application has concluded. There are no allowances within the Consolidated Hearing Act which would enable a proponent to address deficiencies raised by the board decision and request that the hearing resume. To our knowledge, there are no precedents which would allow this to occur and such a precedent would also be very far reaching.

Finally, RSI submitted its Environmental Assessment in February, 1989. At that time, blue box programs and waste diversion programs were in their infancy. Halton Region's landfill decision, also dated February 1989, was considered revolutionary with respect to waste reduction-related conditions. The extraordinary development of waste diversion since, is best seen through the Environmental Assessment Board decision with respect to Orillia's Kitchener Street Landfill (EP-90-03 dated February, 1992). RSI's proposal is now seriously dated and, as such, should not be permitted to proceed.

Rita Landry
Georgetown

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:

The Editor
Halton Hills This Week
232 Guelph St., Unit 9
Georgetown, ON
L7G 4B1
Or fax to:
416-873-3918