

## Acton Councillors puzzled over MPP's announcement

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette is puzzled and slightly miffed by recent comments from Halton North MPP Noel Duignan concerning a new committee to oversee operations at the Acton Quarry.

"I think it's a bit presumptuous of Duignan to say I, as a Regional representative, was going sit on a committee that I've never heard of," Bonnette said Tuesday.

In a newspaper story Sunday, Duignan said the Acton Quarry Review Committee will begin its work this month. Duignan said the committee was formed in August

and includes representatives of the Province, Halton's Conservation Authority, Milton, Halton and Region reps along with Duignan, local environmental groups and the quarry owner, United Aggregates Ltd. (UAL).

"Duignan said Regional representatives will sit on this committee, but I wasn't asked. I haven't had any discussions with him formally or informally, so this committee comes as a big surprise to me," Bonnette said Tuesday.

"I'm not saying a committee to oversee quarry operations is a bad idea but I never heard that there would be one. I will serve if I have to, but it would have been nice to have some discussion instead of being drafted without even knowing what the purpose is."

Duignan said the committee will monitor UAL's current operations at its quarry on the north side of 22 Side Road and its plans to begin mining on 315 acres on the south side to ensure the company follows safe environmental procedures.

Attempts to reach Duignan for comment were unsuccessful because his constituency offices are closed for the holidays.

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**CLOSE CALL:** Acton's George Henderson (centre) holds his son's hand while ambulance crews prepare to move Matthew to hospital. The 11-year-old, whose leg was broken by an automobile, told police he didn't look before darting across Mill Street at Main Street last Wednesday. (Frances Niblock photo)

## Improved Halton R.I.D.E. program a success

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

A chase car and a roving R.I.D.E. unit are credited for catching more impaired drivers in Halton this holiday season.

To date, Halton police have stopped 12,430 cars in their seasonal blitz. Sixty-three roadside breathalyzers were given, resulting in 10 motorists being charged with impaired driving and 11 receiving 12-hour suspensions.

Although Halton police charged only six impaired drivers during all of last year's campaign, Constable Shane Crawford, co-ordinator of the Reduce Impaired Driving Eve-

rywhere (R.I.D.E.) program, said Monday that the increase does not alarm him.

"We are running the R.I.D.E. program in a different manner this year and it is paying off. We have chase cars that are able to go after any motorists who see our spot check and try to avoid it by turning around," Crawford said. "About 10 per cent of drivers try to avoid us and it seems that it is those drivers who we are arresting."

Crawford said police are convinced that the increase in charges over last year does not mean that more people are drinking and driv-

ing, but a sign that police are doing a better job catching them.

"I'm not concerned with the figures for the impaired. I would get concerned if we had 30 or 40 impaireds, but I'm sure that the increase is just because this new method of enforcement is working for us," Crawford explained.

"For the first time we had a fifth unit that was able to roam through the Region and provide back up where needed," Crawford said.

Halton police hope to stop 20,000 vehicles before the R.I.D.E. program ends tomorrow (Thursday) night.

## Welcome Wagon waits for Acton newborn

Like an expectant, indulgent aunt, Acton's Judy Shea is impatiently awaiting the birth of our town's first baby of the new year.

As an agent of Welcome Wagon's baby welcome program, Shea is ready to shower the new babe, and parents, with gifts from Acton and area merchants.

"For the first time we have a special basket of gifts and coupons for the first baby born in 1993 to an Acton area couple," Shea said in an interview Monday.

"This New Year's baby basket includes items from local sponsors including Acton IGA, Blue Springs Flowers, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Herrington Printing and Shaklee. The basket also includes the regular items from our corporate sponsors that are given to every baby born in Halton Hills each year."

Shea, who delivers about 75 Welcome Wagon baby baskets each year, said she can't wait for the first Acton baby to be born.



**LUCKY BOY:** Tanner paper carrier Matthew Henderson, 11, will be off the job for three months after getting hit by a car last Wednesday at Mill and Main Streets. (Frances Niblock photo)

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