

Chamber president to OMB: Local business 'hanging on by fingernails'

BY TIM MORGETROYD
The Acton Tanner

The timing couldn't be worse for an economic development freeze, warned Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce president Bob Malcolmson last week.

Speaking for 400 Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce members at the ongoing OMB hearings, Malcolmson stated local busi-

nesses are "hanging on by their fingernails."

"We ask that you think of the people of Acton prior to any one person's personal, special or political interests," he said, responding to Queen's Park's unprecedented demand for a nine-month development moratorium to allow for environmental testing.

"Now is the time for growth; any delays in development will kill the very backbone of Canada — small business," he said.

Malcolmson pointed out that many area businesses, "specifically Acton, in this economy, are

hanging on by their fingernails and are one step away from closing. During the past year in Halton Hills we have had 43 businesses close due to the recession — most recently the Hide House, putting 120 employees out of work."

He appealed to moratorium supporters to consider jobs still hanging in the balance. Small business in Acton, he explained, provides jobs, community support and a sustained tax base: "The possibility that our children may be able to grow up and work and live in Halton Hills.

"Consider the effect on small business in this community and understand business is not out to destroy our community. The community is our livelihood," Malcolmson explained.

Malcolmson recalled watching Acton lose its viable shopping district over the past 10 to 15 years: the theater, children's stores and small department stores "lost by lack of development."

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AWESOME FORM!

Cassie Hunter, 7, and pal Ryan Holmes, 6, were an impressive pair during the Three-Legged Race at the Rec. and Parks' Special Friday in Prospect Park last week. (Doug Harrison)

Cantel site set for end of October

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Acton's Cantel Communications site should be built and serviced by the end of October, says a Cantel spokesperson.

Cantel, which plans to build a 250-foot cellular tower on a 100x100' parcel of land beside Speyside Auto Body on Highway

25, south of Acton, recently received municipal approval.

"The tower's been reduced considerably by over 100 feet from the original height of about 300 or so," comments Cantel real estate spokesperson Rick Arends.

He said a proposal to build the cellular mobile communication tower on the old Tannery site was nixed because a ravine and part of the Bruce Trail, which is protected by the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC), runs through it.

Arends figures Cantel lost in the neighbourhood of \$20,000 after a plan to build in the Dublin Line-Hwy. 7 area was quashed. Area residents protested vehem-

ently that a site in that area would be damaging to their lives and property.

"We were surprised when we were met with opposition from the Town," Arends recalls.

Arends points out that it was a no-win situation with the public.

"It's typical in-my-backyard ideology like you would find with a dump site or a gas station," professes Arends, who adds construction will take six to eight weeks. "They want the service, but don't want the tower beside them.

"It's going to improve accessibility. With Star 911 there are safety benefits. It's a benefit for the community in whole."

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