

North Halton Happenings

UNTIL MARCH 19

Serving Democracy at Guelph Civic Museum, 6 Dublin St. S. Elections Canada and the Guelph Museum present an exhibition portraying the history of the Canadian electoral process. Featuring photographs, cartoons, posters and hands-on activities. Hours Sunday to Friday 1 to 5 p.m. Phone 519-836-1221.

WEEKENDS, FROM FEBRUARY 26/27

Maple Syrup Days, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Arboretum, U of G. Bring your family and friends to experience the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of maple syrup making. Puppet shows and displays at Nature Centre, tastes of fresh syrup, demonstrations and guided tours of the sugar bush. Runs to Mar 25/26 if weather permits; also runs weekdays during March Break (Mar. 13-17). Adults \$3.50, Children \$2.50 12 yrs. & under. Dates tentative; please call to confirm 519-824-4120, ext. 4110.

MARCH 13 TO 17

March Break Club for Children mornings in St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Rockwood. Free Bible Club with games, quizzes, crafts, prizes and more. Ages 4 to 14. For more information call Mrs. Drijber at 519-856-9906.

MARCH 14, 2000

The Halton/Peel Naturalist Club invites you to join their monthly meeting. Michael Masure founder of FLAP, will speak on the **Fatal Awareness Program** provided for migrating birds at 7:30 p.m. at Cedarvale park, southeast corner of Main St. and Maple Ave., Georgetown.

MARCH 15

Kids' Cooking Contest at Rockwood Library, 85 Christie St., Rockwood. The fifth year of fun for children three and over. Whip up your best creation and bring it to the library at 11 a.m. following judging, everyone may sample some entries; coffee and juice. Registration forms available at the desk until March 10. Registration cost is \$1. A copy of the recipe must be included with the registration.

MARCH 18 & 19

College Royal at the University of Guelph, Stone Road, Guelph. Exhibits, animals, displays, shows, and fun for the whole family! Call 519-824-4120 ext. x-8366 for more information, or visit the website at www.collegeroyal.uoguelph.ca

MARCH 22

Duck Workshop: bluebills, woodies and spiketails is an all-day workshop designed to help identify 24 ducks found in Ontario. Through a variety of hands-on activities learn about plumage, flight identification, breeding displays and migration. Ideas on enhancing habitat for nesting will also be discussed. The workshop includes a Sunday Morning field trip to view migrating ducks at Mountsberg Conservation Area on April 16 at 8 a.m. Fee is \$63; must be registered by Wed., Mar. 8. Call The Arboretum, University of Guelph, (519) 824-4120, ext. 4110.

MARCH 25

Bubble Magic starring Fan Yang at Guelph's Fox Auditorium, 21 Meyer Dr. Showtimes 1, 4, & 7 p.m. In support of Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Call 519-763-9041 for information.

MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1

Book Sale by Canadian Federation of University Women, Milton & District, 1 to 9 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, at Milton Mall. Proceeds to fund scholarships for female graduates of Milton high schools.

APRIL 6

Canadian Federation of University Women Milton & District feature Joyce Scott, Community Action Award Winner for Deborah's Home, at Hugh Foster Hall, 7:30 p.m. For information call 905-878-2421.

APRIL 30, 2000

Would you like to participate in a Rockwood Variety Night to honour our Christian Heritage? Date of the show, April 30, 2000 at the Community Hall. To add your talents to the show contact Joni 519-856-9370 or Wilma 519-856-9056 by March 15th. Hosted by the Everton/Rockwood Community Church.



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What Really Matters

in Guelph/Eramosa Township

with

Councillor Alan McDonald



The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one. Perhaps democracy does have victims. I understand the philosophy behind "the rule of the majority," but at the same time try to address the concerns of each individual or group that I hear from. All is not black and white, and thus I present to you my dilemma.

As a councillor of the Corporation of the Township of Guelph Eramosa, I have two primary responsibilities: assure the financial success of the business (Corporation of the Township of Guelph Eramosa), and listen to and address the needs and concerns of the people in our township. If these two primary concerns become opposing, how would you choose between them?

After one year as a municipal politician, my observation has led me to conclude that many municipal governments in Ontario lag behind in modern business management abilities. I expect that my municipality is a reflection of the average picture of the "business of municipal government" here and perhaps coast to coast in Canada. Tradition and history still dominate within operation. Small size (from a business perspective) hinders the ability to attract personnel that are highly qualified field specialists. It appears to me that our provincial government has just begun to implement modern business operating systems. But in doing so how has it affected municipalities? Being pulled and tugged by changing provincial legislation has hindered and adversely affected progress of municipal business operating systems.

The Corporation of the Township of Guelph Eramosa is a business. Modern successful businesses operate within Quality Systems like ISO9000, QS9000, and other similar quality systems. Benchmarks. Standardized and timely reports. Am I wrong to think that a municipal council is very much like a board of directors and municipal residents are very much like shareholders? If my thinking is accurate, then I should always consider the health of the business as priority one. Meeting the goals and objectives of the business and ensuring the financial health of the corporation is what really matters. Or is it?

Compare hostile take-overs and mergers in the business community, to annexations and amalgamations of municipalities! Businesses maneuver to gain market-share or competitive advantage. Municipalities move boundaries to reduce costs and improve service. Again I find myself asking, "What really matters?" Is it the financial viability, and ensuring the goals and objectives of the corporation as a whole?

The "Caledon Countryside Alliance" is a group considering the creation of a new municipality, including Dufferin County, Caledon, the Town of Erin and possibly more of Wellington County. Wellington County Warden Brad Whitcombe at a recent meeting of the Caledon Countryside Alliance advised on the County's position relating to the Alliance's proposal.

"My County Councillors and I are here this evening to make it clear that we intend to make municipal government work within the current boundaries of Wellington County and to respectfully suggest that if there are municipalities which wish to discuss joining our county, we are willing to entertain proposals. What my councillors and I will not entertain are proposals which remove any parts or municipalities from our county."

The remarks of the Warden are clear and concise. Do you think that the municipalities and the County's goals and objects are being met?

One other example did come across in a discussion with a colleague a few months ago. I wondered out loud as to the possibility of making Promenade Drive subdivision, a small subdivision at the corner of Speedvale and Eramosa in Guelph (tongue in cheek) part of the City of Guelph due to the proximity. My colleague quickly dismissed the notion and commented that the township would then lose the tax assessment from the subdivision. I speculate his philosophy with ensuring financial success of the corporation as being paramount.

Thus I offer my dilemma. What is really important? Is the financial success, the goals and objectives of the corporation to be at the top of my list, or should I consider that small group of shareholders, I mean residents on the fringe of the city, first? Would they be better served by the City of Guelph? If we lost that tax assessment how would it affect the corporation financially?

Referring back to the Caledon Countryside Alliance, what if their proposal would better serve those residents presently in Wellington County? Do we as politicians concern ourselves first with the health of our business, or with you?

Thanks for listening. Remember, kids are people too.

Contact Alan McDonald at 519-856-1167

Email: mcdonald@sentex.net

Global warming emissions

BY TUNDE OTTO-HARRIS
THE COMPASS

Are you concerned about climate change and what it means for our environment, our economy and our future?

The controversial topic of global warming was the theme at a workshop held by the Town Environment Advisory Committee on February 17 in Georgetown. Participants learned how they can make a difference with respect to impact on the local and global environment and in particular, regarding emissions of potential greenhouse gases. The speaker, Mari Komljanec of Enviros presented some scientific evidence about the role that humans may be playing in hastening warming of the global climate through emission of gases - such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, or CFC - that trap the sun's energy within the lower stratosphere. Participants were led through interactive exercises about greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, space heating, water heating, lights and appliances.

In addition, they discussed the factors that influence people when considering energy efficiency. These were listed as: cost (i.e., capital, payback), time, convenience, efficiency with respect to productivity, and habit or learned behaviors. Certain activities that could reduce greenhouse gas emissions would require minimal effort, while others are a greater challenge. However, awareness is the key and altering habits will reduce our impact on both the local and global environment. Examples are walking or using public transit, installing low-flow showerheads, checking tire pressure regularly, turning appliances off when not in use, recycling/composting, fixing leaky faucets, or making a change in lawn care. More demanding examples are buying a fuel-efficient car or furnace, insulating the basement, or replacing some fixtures with fluorescent ones. Also, some activities emit more greenhouse gases than others. Reduction in transportation emis-

sions by carpooling saves >1500kg/year, installation of energy efficient windows reduces emissions by 500-1500 kg/yr, driving slower or planting trees saves 100-500 kg/yr, while stopping car idling or installing a motion detector light reduces emissions by <100 kg/yr (based on a set of assumptions).

Of the total greenhouse gas emissions, "common" versus "personal" emissions represent about 70% vs. 30%. She concluded by saying, "There are a broad range of activities everyone can do, just consider feasibility with respect to the particular circumstance."

Finally, reflect on the "Big Picture," or the lifecycle of the product as this is vital in its efficiency because the energy consumed to produce/use/dispose of it may be very high. For example, consider buying produce that's grown locally rather than from outside the country.

Generally, patterns with

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