

# THE HALTON COMPASS

Published by

**MRK Communications Ltd.**

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The Halton Compass is published weekly on Friday. Copy and advertising deadline is Monday at 5pm prior to publication. All editorial and advertising content is copyrighted and the sole property of MRK Communications Ltd. The Halton Compass is distributed to homes and businesses throughout the rural and urban communities of Halton, encompassing Acton, Erin, Georgetown, Kilbride, Milton, Rockwood, rural Oakville & Burlington and surrounding areas.

**Circulation: 49,176 Homes, Businesses and Subscribers**

**Compass Subscriptions:** 52 issues per year: \$104.00 plus GST

Cheques payable to: **The Halton Compass**  
**35 Crawford Cres., Box 129, Campbellville, ON, L0P 1B0**  
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## EDITORIAL

The Greenbelt Report is in and its findings come as no surprise to those of us who attended the sessions.

Mayor McIsaac and his Taskforce accurately reflected the majority of the views expressed. The vocal minority (mainly the farmers) will still mutter that they were not listened to, but to be fair, minorities almost never carry the day.

There are more urbanites than farmers, and many more town votes than rural. It would be illogical for the farmers to expect to have a bigger say in what happens to their own land. And that, folks, is democracy.

Life, fifty years ago, was very much different from today. Environmental issues were ignored by the majority of the population, especially if they conflicted with the needs of business. Standards that were acceptable then are not tolerated today. Fifty-year-old "solutions" to waste management problems are today's headaches. Just ask Robertsons. What had been a long-term answer to their waste disposal needs, now has to be dug up and treated elsewhere at great cost. Any company that will spend what they did (\$12 million, at the last rumour) on cleaning up this mess count as being amongst the good guys in my book.

### LITTORAL VIEW by: Jeffrey Mueller



This is the modern day woodpecker.

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**Welcomes letters to the Editor**

However, we do not necessarily support or endorse the comments or opinions expressed by the writer(s). We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters. Letters must be signed and the address and telephone number of the writer should be included. Letters may be sent into 35 Crawford Crescent Box 129, Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0, emailed to editor@haltoncompass.com or faxed to 905-854-4761.

## Close encounters with the Halton Hills City Council

By DAVE DEVENEY

As a freelance writer assigned to cover Georgetown for the Halton Compass, I thought it would be a good idea to attend the August 16th Halton Hills Town Council meeting. After all, what better place to find out what's going on in Halton Hills than the hub of politics and finance? Being a newbie to the area I enlisted the help of our inimitable publisher Stephen Baker regarding a contact at the City Hall. He said two words: "Call Aretta."

Mrs. Aretta Morgan is the Mayor's Executive Assistant and all round good egg. I contacted her and made arrangements to meet with her and the Mayor, Mr. Rick Bonnette on the day of the town council meeting. I was also smart enough to find out what kind of coffee or tea they both like and brought along the appropriate beverage. My thinking was that I would at least get the chance to drink a coffee with the Mayor and get the inside scoop on what they are working on these days.

On the appointed day I drove the few kilometers to One Halton Hills Drive the home of Halton Hills City Council meetings and the hub of politics and finance. The picturesque facility is located across from the North Halton Golf and Country Club. The Halton Hills Civic Center boasts a beautiful atrium, outdoor fountain, manicured lawns and parking facilities. The center reflects the nature of Halton Hills, country charm with all of the modern conveniences. I trudged toward the door toting my liquid offerings, my camera, my pad and portfolio and a good attitude. I found my way to Aretta and the Mayor's Office. I was cheerfully greeted by the Mayor's right hand woman and was advised that the Mayor would be along shortly. No sooner had she uttered the statement than the Mayor himself rushed in carrying a goal stick that looked like it was from the 1960's or '70's. The Mayor was ecstatic with his purchase as he related the story of finding the stick at a garage sale for \$ 5.00. "Check this out." he said as he thrust the stick into my hand.

The look on the Mayor's face was the same look that you see on a kid who just got their first bike. "It's a pre-curve stick," he said. "Made before they put curves in goal sticks." The Mayor should know, he is an avid hockey fan and player. Yes, you guessed it, he plays goalie, and he seems like a "puck stops here" kind of guy. I made my liquid offering to the Mayor and he was gone in a flash to a committee meeting. At least I know whom to call if I need a good goalie.



After meeting the Mayor I had some time to tour the Civic Center and snap some photos of the area for future reference. I wandered the property and found myself in front of "Bunnn1" - the Mayor's car. Somehow I expected something a little more boring but the Mayor's machine is a nice red Toyota and the personal plate really tops it off.

My wandering continued and I met with the impeccably dressed, Ms. Jackie Bowles, Manager of Human Resources. She was waiting to make a presentation to the special committee meeting. I tried to pry the details of her confidential report from her but she was not about to share her report with me. I would have to look elsewhere for my big scoop.

The council meeting got started late due to the special committee meeting. That is when the fun began. I witnessed presentations from concerned citizens about force main sewers, potbellied pigs, money for a youth center and a report on the available water in Halton Hills and that was only the first half of the meeting! I understand that they also decided not to regulate roaming cats during the second half of the meeting. Halton Hills Council Meetings are the cats meow!

It is nice to know that Halton Hills is not a place that is wrapped up in red tape. It is not a place just about nice buildings. It is about people. The people who dedicate their lives to public service. People like Aretta Morgan, Rick Bonnette and Jackie Bowles. People working for you. The puck stops with them.