

# THE HALTON COMPASS

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## EDITORIAL

### The pantomime is peculiarly English

Who else but the English would put on plays for children sprinkled with off-colour humour and double-entendres; with a 'leading man' played by a shapely girl in tights, and with a female lead played by man obviously in drag. The origins of the pantomime are obscure but as an entertainment it dates back to at least the turn of the last century, if not much earlier. The plots are loosely based on nursery rhymes or fairy tales and have heroes and villains that even the youngest audience can readily identify. Doesn't sound like your cup of tea?

Ah, but then you haven't taken your grandchildren to one; seen them up on their feet yelling warnings to the heroes, and loudly booing the villains. I don't know what it is about a pantomime that draws children in. Maybe it's the fact that they can interact with the players in a way that is impossible with the one-eyed monster. Maybe it's that the villains are deliciously over the top; that there is no ambiguity as to which the bad guys are, and that berating them as part of a mob from the darkness of the stalls is brave and yet safely anonymous.

The good guys always triumph in the end, the handsome prince always gets the girl, and the villains turn out to be silly and harmless. What more could you want?

A decent plot? Good songs and voices to match? Superb comic acting? Impeccable timing? If the answer to the above is yes, you don't understand pantomimes.

Ross Petty has for the last five years put on a pantomime at the Elgin Theatre in Toronto, with superb casts and decent sets. So good, in fact that the shows are later televised. I've taken my grandchildren to them and they loved them. This year, rather than struggle downtown I took my family to the Oakville Centre to see a local production of "Mother Goose". Now the sets were spartan, the singing modest and the acting somewhat homespun. The kids loved it. I don't mean they liked it. I mean they loved it. Amateur is not a term that can be applied to pantomimes. Slick and polished performances do not fit the genre well. The whole point is that the audience should be able to see the seams of the performance and that the actors' masks should slip deliberately so that the kids can see the person behind the villain/hero. When the kids have yelled themselves hoarse vanquishing the villains, when harmony eventually reigns, then it's been a good show, a satisfying show. It's been a pantomime.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sirs:

The Upper Credit Humane Society would like to recognize and thank you sincerely for the excellent coverage you have given us throughout 2004.

Many of our residents have found homes because of the exposure your paper has afforded them. Our partnership with you is highly valued. We rely on community support to carry out our mission to find all needy animals that come into our care new homes and a second chance to be loved and love.

We feel that without your continued support of our Society, life for the animals would indeed be much dimmer.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to you on behalf of the Staff, Volunteers, and Board of Directors of the Upper Credit Humane Society and obviously the biggest thank you of all comes from the animals that cannot speak for themselves.

Seasons Greetings to all,  
Judith-Anne Kolu,  
Media Relations,  
Upper Credit Humane Society.



THE HALTON  
COMPASS  
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.

## Milton Council Notes

BY COUNCILLOR CINDY LUNAU

**ALTERED SCHEDULE:** The regular rotation of meetings for Standing Committees and Council is altered due to holiday closures and Budget considerations. Council met on December 6 and met again on December 20th. Council met on December 13 to consider the Capital Budget. Standing Committees did not meet this month.

**FOURTH LINE, DERRY ROAD TO MAIN STREET EAST:** Council received a number of delegations, some supporting the need and others expressing concern on the effects of this closure. Third reading of the By-Law was deferred for Staff and Region review to consider temporary measures to mitigate the concerns while meeting needs for safety. This section of roadway is designated to eventually be closed.

**OMB APPEALS:** Council authorized representation at OMB Appeals by the Radha Soami Society Beas Canada (6566 Sixth Line) and Peter Senov & Jacqueline Lacenaire (5418 Trafalgar Road).

**GO TRANSIT:** GO Transit plans to expand their facilities to add 250 parking spaces, renovate the garage to accommodate another 25 buses, and other site improvements to commence in Spring 2005. Traffic lights are also under consideration.

**REGIONAL ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT:** Council approved an extension of this agreement with the Region of Halton.

**ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** Council supported the replacement of the entrance/exit steps as shown on drawings under the Ontario Heritage Act.

**TRAFFIC CONTROL BY-LAW:** In a recorded vote, Council denied an amendment to this by-law which would have altered the definition of 'boulevard' and On Street and Lower Driveway Boulevard Parking Policy.

**ROAD DESIGN:** Final designs were approved for sections of Pearl Street, Bruce Street, Court Street and Williams

Avenue scheduled for reconstruction.

**DEBT MANAGEMENT:** Council received a report forecasting funding needs and recovery for Capital Projects over the next five years.

**SMART HOME PROJECT:** Council agreed to participate as a Municipal Government Partner with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in the proposed Green Municipal Fund Integrated Energy - Smart Home Project, as the next step in the Eco-Tech Village project.

**PUBLIC MEETING:** Council held the Statutory Public Meeting on User Fees in response to the new Municipal Act, Planning Act, and the Building Code Amendment. Fees reviewed were largely regarding those through the development applications approvals process (DAAP). Further User Fees will be presented to the Administration & Planning Committee in January. Once all comments have been received, a report will be brought forward for con-

sideration. If you wish to comment or would like further information, contact the Town.

**CAPITAL BUDGET:** Council deferred consideration and decisions on the proposed Capital Budget to January 18.

**WEB SITE:** Council agendas and minutes are posted on the Town's web site. This site also includes other useful and interesting information about Town events, services, press releases and reports. www.milton.ca.

**REPRESENTATIVES:** Phone numbers and email address for the Mayor and Councillors are available on the Town's Web Site or by phone. Town Hall 905-878-7211 or 1-800-418-5494. Region of Halton 905-825-6000 or 1-866-442-5866.

(These notes are intended to provide a snapshot of Milton Council happenings, rather than opinions. Further information can be obtained - and comments shared - through elected representatives, town staff and the Town website.)