

# A good and faithful servant

## Bob Austin retires after 35 years in government

BY BERNADETTE WARD

Right out of the starting gate, Bob Austin, CAO for Halton Hills, sets the record about his departure straight.

"I've been in government for 35 years as of this year, so it's time to retire," he says.

That's quite a respectable amount of time to have spent with the government and Austin is candid.

"There is still lots to do and I feel bad that I won't get it all done, but...I'm tired," he says.

He will officially retire in September of this year, after having taken office in 2003 when his predecessor, Steve Andrews departed.

Austin, who is married and has two daughters, began his career as a civil engineer working for the provincial government at the Ministry of Transportation (MOT). He was born and raised in Sudbury and attended the University of Guelph.

After working in Ontario's Great North, Austin eventually made his way to Toronto and the Acton where he has resided since 1974 when he began working with Halton Hills as the town engineer managing the town's roads and all of the town services that go with them.

He has, he says, touched a lot of things that have happened in town.

"I've literally been here for every development in Halton Hills," says Austin. "Everything that's happened since then has crossed my desk."

Austin believes that Mayor Bonnette, asked why he chose him for the job of CAO, would say it was because of his knowledge of the town and it's staff.

He himself believes that his ability to make fair decisions and team-player tendencies, along with having the respect and trust of staff, certainly helped.

"They were looking for someone to steady the ship and bring back a personality to the position," he says.

Of his accomplishments since taking office, the ones that have left a lasting

impression with him include the work done on the strategic plan; a deal that saw the non-residential tax assessment ratio dealt with in a manner that encouraged industrial development in the community and more recently, a contract settlement with town staff.

Asked what aspect of engineering prepared him for his work as CAO, Austin pointed to the mindset of an engineer.

"If you're an engineer you can think things through. I'm not sure there's a better grounding for the job," says Austin.

People, he says, are what he'll miss the most about his job when he retires.

"People are what it's all about and I've worked with some super people. Its nurtured friendships out of business relationships," says Austin.

And just what does he plan to do with all of his spare time once he retires?

"There's nothing preconceived about my destiny after that," says Austin but he does admit that he may indulge in a little travel and maybe even a little more golf.

"I golf a lot," says Austin, "but not necessarily well."

Austin, it appears, will have some time to fix that.



# Brent Colbert seeks Conservative nomination

Long time North Halton resident; Brent Colbert will be seeking the Conservative Party of Canada nomination in Halton at a meeting scheduled for May 12, 2005. Brent has been active in conservative politics for over 20 years and is a member of the Halton Conservative executive, and represented Halton at the Conservative Party's first policy convention in March 2005. Brent is a former policy advisor on children's issues for the provincial government. Brent is 35 and married with two children.



## The Milton Players "The Long Weekend"

BY ANN KORNUA

The Milton Players Theatre Group is proud to present their newest comedy "The Long Weekend" written by Norm Foster starting May 6th at the Senior's Activity Centre in Milton. Directed by Milton Player Geoff Ford. The play focuses on two couples, long time friends, who get together for a weekend away from the noise of the city. The resulting misunderstandings create the type of comedy for which Norm Foster is famous. Tickets are available for show only dates, one Sunday matinee and dinner theatre performances. Date times for the show only with cash bar and light refreshments for May 6th, 13th, and 12th. Doors for the show only performances open at 7:30 pm and tickets are only \$15. For the dinner theatre, dates are May 7th and 14th starting at 6:30 pm with tickets only \$35. The one Sunday Matinee will take place on May 8th at 1:30 pm with tickets at \$15. All performances will take place at Milton's Senior's Activity Center located at 500 Childs Drive. Tickets are available at Delacourt's on 227 Main Street for shows and dinner theatre performances.



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## halton happenings

Please note: Halton Happenings is a free editorial service to non-profit groups, churches, schools, and charities only. Deadline for submission is Tuesday at noon prior to insertion on Friday. Please restrict information supplied to include the date, time, venue, organization and contact details for your event. The Halton Compass reserves the right to edit each submission for brevity. Inclusion is at the discretion of the publisher and is dependent on space. To submit an event for Halton Happenings call 905-854-3333 or email [info@haltoncompass.com](mailto:info@haltoncompass.com)

### April 29 - May 7

- **The Milton Mayor's Youth Advisory Council** and the Town of Milton invite youth, 13 - 24 years of age, to celebrate Youth Week 2005. For a full calendar of Youth Week events, visit [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca), call 905-878-7252, ext. 2754 or [recreation@milton.ca](mailto:recreation@milton.ca)

### April 30

- **New sessions for the Town of Milton's Adult, Pre-natal and Kids Yoga Programs** (various times). Register using Milton Online Registrations at [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca) or for more information; call 905-878-7946
- **Acton Angel Fundraising Dance** at the Legion - Support the Acton Angels and the Weekend to end Breast Cancer. Door prizes, silent auction, light buffet, DJ & live band.
- **Milton Tennis Club registration** at the new clubhouse at 800 Santa Maria Blvd., 11 am - 4 PM. Opening day is April 30th with registrations continuing, BBQ, Adult Round Robin play and Free Group Lessons. For more info call (905) 875-9911 or e-mail [mtcregistrar@yahoo.ca](mailto:mtcregistrar@yahoo.ca).
- We have rescheduled the **Hornby Clean-Up Day** for 9:00am due to the weather conditions over last weekend.
- The Town of Milton's Community Services Department holds registration at the Milton Leisure Centre, 1100 Main St. East., from 10am-2pm for a new **co-ed beach volleyball league** in Milton, 18 years and older. [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca) or [recreation@milton.ca](mailto:recreation@milton.ca) or call 905-878-7252, ext. 2754.

### May 1

- **Gala Concert** - Georgetown Bach Chorale and guest soloists perform with a Baroque Orchestra. 7:30pm St. James Anglican Church, Caledon East. Tickets \$25. Call 905-877-8321
- **Model Search 2005** - Fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society - All Ages - Open Auditions - Sunday 3- 5:30 pm. Milton Leisure Centre 1200 Main St., East Milton \$10.00 Entry fee donated to Cancer Society. Call 905 542-8885 for more info or visit our website at [www.carolynsonline.com](http://www.carolynsonline.com)
- **The Brookville Masters Slow Pitch** league season opener at Brookville Park. Guelph Line, 2 minutes north of Mohawk Slots. Room for more players. Contact Brian 905-854-0293 John 905-854-0755 <http://webhome.idirect.com/~bearmugs>

### May 2

- Kinsmen club of Georgetown are hosting 21st annual **TV Auction on Cogeco** 14, 6:00 to 10:30. Items listed on web site for advance on line bids [www.georgetownkinsmen.ca](http://www.georgetownkinsmen.ca)

### May 3, 10, 17

Buddhism for Real People - a 3 part series on "Modern Buddhism", at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre, 9 Church Street Georgetown - 7:30pm - 9pm - Admission Free. Info - 905-877-1513 or 905-864-9411 or [victoriaks@yahoo.com](mailto:victoriaks@yahoo.com)

### May 4

- Free seminar "Understanding Depression" 7pm at the 707 Galaxy Banquet Hall, Oakville. Presented by Halton Healthcare Services in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association. To reserve a seat, call 905-338-4379 or e-mail [elittle@haltonhealthcare.on.ca](mailto:elittle@haltonhealthcare.on.ca). Visit [www.cmha-halton.ca](http://www.cmha-halton.ca)
- **Swing into Spring!** Luncheon & fashions by Elizabeth's at the North Halton Golf and Country club - 12 noon to 2 pm. Door prizes & gifts. Volunteer fundraiser to benefit the Georgetown hospital campus of the William Osler Health Centre Tickets \$25 at the Georgetown hospital gift shop & Elizabeth's on Main St.
- "Stress Management" is a four -week course. The program is being offered in Milton. The cost is \$80.00 and includes a "Coping with Stress" booklet. Call the Canadian Mental Health Association, 905-693-4270. CMHA Halton is a United Way member agency.

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