

# Local politicians plot final year

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

The first year of the millennium is the third and final year of this term of office for municipal politicians and one Acton councillor predicts it will be a year - 10 months really - of politicking and electioneering leading to November's municipal election.

The New Tanner asked Acton councillors to forecast what issues and challenges Halton Hills faces in 2000.

Councillor Norm Elliott, who said election years are "always a little off the wall," in Halton Hills, is, for the first time, optimistic about development in Acton.

"I think there are some signs that things are going to move. Looks like we may have some activity in Acton East in 2000, and it's about time," Elliott said, unable to confirm rumors one of the three main properties in Acton East had recently changed hands.

Elliott said restructuring of Greater Toronto Area regions by the provincial government is a key issue and urged the public not to be apathetic and accept what the province does to Halton.

Another major issue is the Town's Official Plan review and Elliott said if people want Halton Hills to retain some degree of rural farmland and open space, they must protest loud and long against urban sprawl.

"If we don't start to real-



Rick Bonnette

ize what's happening and protect ourselves some how from being swallowed up in that sprawl, we won't be recognizable from Mississauga or Brampton at all," Elliott said, suggesting a union of north Halton communities might be the best way to restructure.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette said finding additional doctors for Acton and restructuring are major issues. He's worried finding a new location for the Acton ambulance station, now that there is full-time service, could be delayed by the restructuring debate because people won't want to spend money on long-range plan.

Bonnette said now that lake water - the big pipe - has been approved to bring lake water to the 401 industrial area, Halton Hills should hire a full-time business development officer.

"We need the industrial tax base and I don't want to wait until the pipe gets here and be two of three years behind in attract businesses here," Bonnette said.

Bonnette said he's like the town to buy six to eight acres of land in Acton for soccer pitches and focus on encour-



Norm Elliott

aging housing and commercial development in Acton East. He also thinks the Town will have to commit up to \$1.5 million dollars to improve conditions on the 57.8 kilometres of gravel and dirt roads in Halton Hills.

Acton Councillor Clark Somerville agrees restructuring will be a big issue, along with development in Acton East and attracting another



Clark Somerville

family physician to Acton.

"I also would like to fast track phase three of the West Meadows seniors' project, and I would like to continue to push the Acton east developers to build," he said.

"I'd also like to see more sidewalks added to the list that are cleared of snow and hope they can find a new location for the Acton ambulance station."



GREETING 2000: Candles and cheers greeted the millennium on New Year's Eve for McDonald Boulevard residents, Marissa Kidd (left) Eric and Julia Niblock and Tom Niblock (standing.) - Frances Niblock photo

## Power blackouts disrupt delivery

While Monday's ice storm itself had no impact on Acton, it caught residents in a roundabout way.

In Vaughn, north of Toronto, loss of power shut down TorStar's printing presses and delayed distributing trucks by about three hours.

Toronto Star district manager Jim Maguire says many of their carriers already had to leave for their day jobs before Star trucks arrived at the central distribution point with their papers. This included Acton's carrier and the carrier serving the rural area east of town. As a result customers found their Stars arriving after their carriers finished off their day shift.

Halton Hills Hydro manager Dan Guatto says Acton did not lose its power but rural residents supplied through one of the Ontario Hydro feeders experienced a brief service disruption when a Brampton substation locked out around 11 p.m.

Since the system stayed in operation when restarted manually, hydro officials suspect ice caused the problem.

"But whether that was ice on a line in Halton Hills or

around the substation in Brampton, no one knows," Guatto says.

### LEGION NEWS BRANCH No. 197

By Joyce Buchanan

So another year begins. Hope you had a good New Year's. Did you make any new year resolutions, and are they broken yet? The question now is where has all the snow gone? And when will it be back?

Ok, news is scarce so I am back to complaining. We have a policy that, when a Veteran dies, we have a group of volunteers who phone you about a Legion Tribute for the Vet. Please do not say, I don't

know the person. That is not the point. What a small world it would be if we only did something because we knew everyone. Please help these volunteers and thank them for taking time to contact you.

Well, enough of that. We are now back to weekly activities. All the leagues are back. Wednesday Bridge is going strong, Thursday afternoon Euchre and Friday night Euchre are started.

Happy New Year.  
See you at the Branch.

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