

Norm Elliott to retire from politics



Norm Elliott

Veteran Acton councillor Norm Elliott, described by a colleague as the "chamber of sober second thought" is leaving municipal politics and won't run in the election this fall.

Elliott made his decision public during Monday's council meeting, saying it was important for people to know that an incumbent was not seeking re-election, adding it wasn't an easy decision for him to make.

"It's literally becoming impossible for me to bal-

ance the demands of my job and the ever-increasing demands of being a councillor in Halton Hills," Elliott said, adding he's no longer able to do both jobs well.

Elliott said the timing of his announcement will give those genuinely interested in being a councillor, "serious candidates" particularly in Ward 1, time to think about running.

Elliott, an insurance agent in Georgetown, has been on Town Council for 15 years and prior to

that, sat on Acton Council - one of the youngest ever elected - for three years.

Elliott said he has severe regrets about not being on Council when the long-awaited Acton development comes to fruition, hopefully within a couple of years, but also said there would always be a new issue or crisis to get involved with.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson said while she regretted hearing the news, she knows how

Continued on Page 2

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What's Inside



Halton Hills honoured achievements at an honours night on Monday. See Pages 4 and 5.



First shovel of ground for the new Halton Hills Catholic Secondary School was dug Friday afternoon. See Page 11.



Lots of lacrosse at the Arena, both minor and the Bulldogs. See Sports Pages 12 and 13.



Work is progressing on the Rockwood Seniors' home as it gets a real facelift. See photos Page 10.

Acton Hydro office on the block?

Quick action by neighbour saves woman

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
 The New Tanner

An elderly Acton woman owes her good health to a resident of Mill House following a recent incident by Halton Flour Mill.

Alan Adey, a Mill House resident, grabbed the woman and pushed her back from live hydro wires lying across the sidewalk on Mill Street West on June 9. He feared she was going to step on the downed wires as she hurried east to catch a bus.

Mill House administrator Helen Quinn was on the porch around 7:30 p.m. when she saw a truck leaving the mill catch the hydro wires and pull them down. Apparently the driver forgot to lower the safety rail around the catwalk on the top of his truck.

Continued on Page 2



PLAQUE PRESENTED: Janis Fread and Mark Rowe of Halton Hills Heritage present Dr. Margaret Brillinger, left, with a plaque representing the year her home on Park Avenue, Acton was built by Acton miller John Harvey. Volunteers from Halton Hills Heritage researched the history of the home at the registry office in Milton.

Town could benefit

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
 The New Tanner

The Alice Street headquarters of Halton Hills Hydro (HHH) could be sold as the public utility is restructured to become a corporation owned and operated by the Town.

An environmental assessment of the property - home to HHH since 1989 - and a market assessment will be done to determine its value. The issue, on the agenda of a private meeting between HHH and Town departments heads last Wednesday, became public when HHH Commissioner Russ Miller questioned the discussions at the joint meeting.

Miller said anyone reading the agenda - The New Tanner was refused a copy - would wonder "what the hell is going on with that committee."

HHH general manager Dan Guatto explained the sale of the property and building could have tax benefits to the Town that has decided to retain and operate hydro.

"If they (the Town) ever decided to sell the utility, there'd be a tax benefit to the Town, if the Town directly owns the building," Guatto said, adding the new hydro board and restructuring committee will have to make a

business decision, "should the building be retained and where do we locate it in Halton Hills," Guatto said.

When Miller asked why the Town couldn't own the building and hydro rent it, Guatto said the new board might not want to rent a building that has liabilities, including stored PSBs, a known carcinogen, and bulk fuel.

Guatto said the department heads identified areas of mutual interest, including tree trimming, street lighting, and system support, in an exploratory meeting between Town and HHH department heads to try to "save costs for both organizations and make both more efficient."

Town administrator Steve Andrews said disposition of the HHH building was one of seven items on the agenda at the meeting, called so Town and HHH senior managers could get to know one another better.

"We're looking at probably an increase in hydro rates, so we need to look at ways of cutting costs and one thing that also came up was could we be looking at something jointly with our works yard on Trafalgar (Road)," Andrews said.

Dobbie blows whistle on safety

Frustrated and angry that his complaints about safety concerns have been repeatedly "ignored" by Halton Hills Hydro staff and fellow hydro commissioners, veteran commissioner Dobbie Frizzell turned whistle blower at a hydro commission meeting on Thursday, demanding to know why damaged and dangerous poles weren't fixed.

Staff and fellow commissioners were visibly perplexed by Frizzell's public

broadside. In private, they were reportedly upset and angered that Frizzell had taken his complaints public.

Frizzell invoked the Walkerton tragedy - where official allegedly knew of problems, but initially took no action - as he complained about a damaged pole at the Glen Williams sub-station on the Eighth Line at 22 Side Road.

"It's been lashed with cross arms and a nylon and I

want to know why it hasn't been fixed," Frizzell said, adding it has been like that for 10 or 12 years.

Staff explained they haven't had the ability, until now, to swing the power load off the sub-station so extensive, and expensive, repairs can be made to the pole, part of a structure that holds the feeder lines. Leaking insulating fluid ate a hole through the pole, which has been braced. Staff promised to re-

port back within 30 days on a solution and a cost estimate, with the intention of doing the work before the end of the year.

Frizzell also complained about a "dangerous" pole that should have been replaced two years ago on Main Street north and listed several other Halton Hills Hydro jobs that have not been completed. Staff explained a property owner is behind one

Continued on Page 2

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