



NEW CHAMPS: Mike and Sandy MacDonald took time to do Kramer a good turn. - Frances Niblock photo

MacDonalds June's Community champs

Caring for a run away dog, not once, but twice, earned Sandy and Mike MacDonald an Acton Community Champion award, designed to praise unsung heroes and people who make this community a nicer place to live.

On two occasions when a neighbour's dog - Kramer - escaped from its yard, the MacDonalds caught him and kept him safe and warm until

his grateful owners came home.

One of the times, the MacDonalds were on their way to work, but stopped to help anyway, earning their neighbours' grateful thanks, and a wag and wet lick from Kramer.

If you know of someone who deserves some public praise, you can drop off nominating information (your name and phone number, their name and your reason for the nomination) at the arena, at Halton Hills Community Support and Information at 45 Mill Street or in the Acton BIA mailbox outside the Mill Street police sub-station.

POLICE BEAT

Minor injuries

A Blue Circle Aggregates employee was treated for minor injuries and released from Georgetown Hospital at 12:16 a.m. on Friday after being injured at the Third Line quarry, south of Acton.

Police say the man was clearing a magnesium bar from a stone crusher deck when a crane winch slid off an I-beam and hit him. The man was back at work the next day.

Correction

Due to incorrect information supplied by Halton Regional Police, The New Tanner carried a story recently indicating a two-year old Acton girl was burned when she pulled a pot of boiling sugar water off the stove.

Police now say the girl was splashed with the water when the pot was being taken off the burner by her mother and became tangled in a dishcloth.

Higher garbage costs in Halton Hills

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

More waste, less recycling, full apartment garbage pickup and lower average house values mean Acton taxpayers pay the highest fee among Halton's four municipalities to get rid of their garbage.

A Halton Hills resident with a home assessed at \$185,000 - the so-called average current value assessment - will pay \$135.65 cents for waste management this year, compared to a low of \$89.12 in Oakville, a "quite significant" difference of \$46.53.

In a briefing to Town councillors recently, Halton budget manager Robert Rossini told Town, unlike fire and police

taxes, waste management taxes are based on a specific area in each municipality.

"Half of the \$46 difference is explained just in the values of housing values," Rossini said, explaining that although they use \$185,000 as an average assessment when calculating the waste management tax, the actual average value in Halton Hills is \$181,000 and \$233,000 in Oakville.

Rossini said service levels in each of the four municipalities also adds increased costs in Halton Hills, the only municipality to have full apartment waste pickup. The other large contributing factor to higher waste disposal costs in Halton Hills is the amount of waste generated, especially the amount going to the

landfill that makes up the bulk of the taxes.

"More waste per household means more (disposal) cost and that results in higher taxes when its spread against a smaller tax base," Rossini said, adding Halton Hills households generate just under a ton of waste per year, whereas the average is .8 of a ton in the three other municipalities.

Halton Hills residents put about one-third less recyclables materials into their Blue Box, meaning more go into the landfill at a higher disposal rate.

Halton's acting director of waste manager, John Smith, said they will be able to determine what Halton Hills residents are throwing away, that could be recycled, with a new Waste Watch program.

Golf Course proposal sparks water concerns

Proponents of a 27-hole golf course just east of Acton claim there's so much excess water in Black Creek that the amount they need to irrigate the course won't have any impact on Black Creek, which is a cold water fishery.

The proposed Black Creek golf course is located on a 225-acre property at the northeast corner of the Fourth Line and Highway 7. Only 160 of the acres are developable because of environmentally sensitive areas on the property.

In an update to Town Council recently, planning consultant Glenn Schnarr said the main issue with the development is the taking of water for irrigation.

Schnarr assured councillors they would only take water for irrigation during periods of high flow, in the spring or after a rainstorm and that water will be stored in man-made ponds until it's needed.

Water for domestic use - for showers in the clubhouse

- would come from the ground water and that supply must still be proved by hydrogeological studies.



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