

One Fairy Lake beach closed for E.coli

If you plan to swim in Fairy Lake this week, make sure you use the beach by the Boat House because the so-called old beach on the opposite side of the park is unsafe.

Water sample testing last week found levels of E. coli bacteria from the old beach exceed provincial health guidelines and Halton Region has listed it as unsafe for public bathing on its beach hotline.

Weekly samples taken in the park have found the old beach unsafe for swimming twice so far this year, since the testing began mid-

May. The Boat House beach was listed an unsafe for swimming earlier this month. The unsafe samples could be caused by hot, wet weather and runoff from goose droppings along the shoreline.

Halton staff collect 10 water samples weekly – usually on Tuesday or Wednesday from the two beaches in the park.

Those samples are tested by the Hamilton Public Health Lab, which reports the results to the Region's Health department. It then updates the beach hotline message indicating if

the beach safe or unsafe for public swimming.

Ministry of Health guidelines allow E. coli levels up to 100/mml. Any result under 100 allows the beach to remain open.

Swimming in water with an e.coli count over 100 could result in gastrointestinal problems. Testing done prior to June 5 at the old beach showed an E. coli count of 143. The June 19 test result showed a count of 160. The Boat House beach had one test result above the acceptable limit so far this year, but is currently

open for swimming.

Last year the Boat House beach was closed for a total of 28 days because of contamination and the old beach was closed for 21 days.

The Health Department water sampling is done at Acton's two public bathing beaches, Kelso Conservation Area and two beaches in Burlington. Oakville beaches have been permanently closed for more than five years after a history of unacceptable bacteria counts.

The beach hotline is 853-0501, ex: 6111.

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THE NEW Tanner
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Volume 4 No. 26 Thursday, June 28, 2001

It's Talk Time!
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What's Inside



Acton's ready for the 2001 Community Blooms Competition as Max MacSween tells the mayor and Clark Somerville. See Page 5.



A high school sign in memory of the late Ted Hansen was dedicated last week. See Page 8.



Twin coupes were among the cars shown at Rockwood Cruise Night last Saturday. See Page 10.

Our Rockwood reporter talked to Joe Clark last Friday. See the story on Page 10.

Hats off to our Graduates!

Spring 'blitz' nails speeders

Police patrol 329 miles of road

Slew of violations in Acton

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

In Acton, the Halton Police Service's Project Gateway has resulted in a slew of Highway Traffic Act violations – most of them for speeding.

One District Superintendent Mike Kingston said 120 hours of additional radar duty in Acton resulted in 156 Highway Traffic Act tickets being issued – most for speeding – and 55 warnings.

Two 12-hour licence suspensions were issued during the blitz, which began April 1 and runs until further notice. These were in addition to the 64 traffic violations and 62 warnings issued by regular patrol officers in Acton.

Superintendent Kingston couldn't break down the criminal offences and clearance rate for Acton, but in North Halton (Acton, Georgetown and Milton) the number of criminal offences for the first five months of the year is down by 8 per cent – a "huge drop" over the same period last year to 776.

The clearance rate is up slightly to 40.2 per cent, and collisions are down by five over the same period last year, to 184 to 189. The number of personal injury accidents dropped to 40 from 51 in North Halton.

Continued on Page 3



FLAG SALUTE: Councillor Dobbie Frizzell, top, BIA Coordinator Josey Murray, and John McNabb started the process of hanging 50 Canadian flags on lamp posts in the business section of Acton on Monday, ready for Canada on Sunday. The BIA is supplying the flags.

More than ever, sophisticated technology and more officers on patrol means you can run, but you can't hide, if you violate the Highway Traffic Act in Halton Hills, which includes 329 miles of highway.

"We have to close the gate. We can't allow the speeders to think they can speed without being deterred in Halton Region," an impassioned Inspector Bill Ford told Halton Hills councillors last week.

When Mayor Kathy Gastle said the Inspector sounded like he was "mad as heck and not going to take it any more," Ford said, "that's what the community wants. They've made that loud and clear. The community is mad as heck and we're not going to take it any more," he said as he detailed a spring blitz and Project Gateway – a three-month emphasis on enforcement.

Inspector Bill Ford said it quickly became evident that east-west roads through Halton Hills were being used as a "gateway to the city" for people trying to beat great gridlock by racing through the community.

In Halton Hills, just over 1,123 Highway Traffic Act tickets have been issued in the three-month blitz, which began April 1, and 43 per cent of those tickets were issued to non-resident. Forty-one per cent of the accidents in that same period involved non-residents.

Inspector Ford said they added 578 hours of traffic en-

forcement in the blitz and Project Gateway, which included putting two additional unmarked police cruisers on the road and the use of radar and lidar – a high-tech blend of laser and radar.

Inspector Ford said the crackdown on traffic violations wouldn't have been as successful without the Community Consultation Committees (CCC), citizen volunteers who bring community concerns to the police.

The chair of the Acton CCC, Bev Jones, said their group formed in 1990, and with a core of six members, they are looking for more volunteers.

"Our aim is to have at least one member, or one citizen, present in each of the town of Acton – it's quit a challenge to get new members," Jones said.

Inspector Ford also said the Road Watch program has been a big help in curbing speeding and dangerous driving. Citizens who witness traffic infractions can report it to police on an anonymous form, and the driver in question will receive a warning letter or a phone call.

Inspector Ford said all of the initiatives will help make the roads safer.

"Your best defence is the certainty of enforcement."

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