

Goose 'poop' a nuisance but not a hazard

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Insatiable at one end and irresponsible at the other.

The dietary habits of Canada geese and their many fluffy goslings are to blame for fouling the shoreline of Fairy Lake, but unlike some municipalities that cull the flocks by relocating them, the town has no plans to move the Prospect Park flock.

Several times already this summer, both beaches at Fairy Lake have been deemed unsafe for swimming because of unacceptable levels of E. coli bacteria. The contamination comes, in part, from goose droppings bacteria washed into the lake by heavy rains. An adult goose can produce as much as 0.2-kilograms of droppings a day.

The Town's director of recreation and parks, Bryan Shynal, said several years ago a goose management committee was set up in the

Greater Toronto Area to investigate the issue that is a bigger problem along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

In Acton, Shynal said the goose population has risen to a "nuisance level, but it hasn't risen to a crisis point," and while Mississauga and Oakville recently herded up flocks of geese to relocate them to their homes in the US, he said the Town's management efforts include planting along the shoreline of Fairy Lake.

"If the geese can't have a visible means of

escape from land back into the water, then they tend to stay away from that area, and with the help of Friends of Fairy Lake, that shoreline planting has helped," Shynal said.

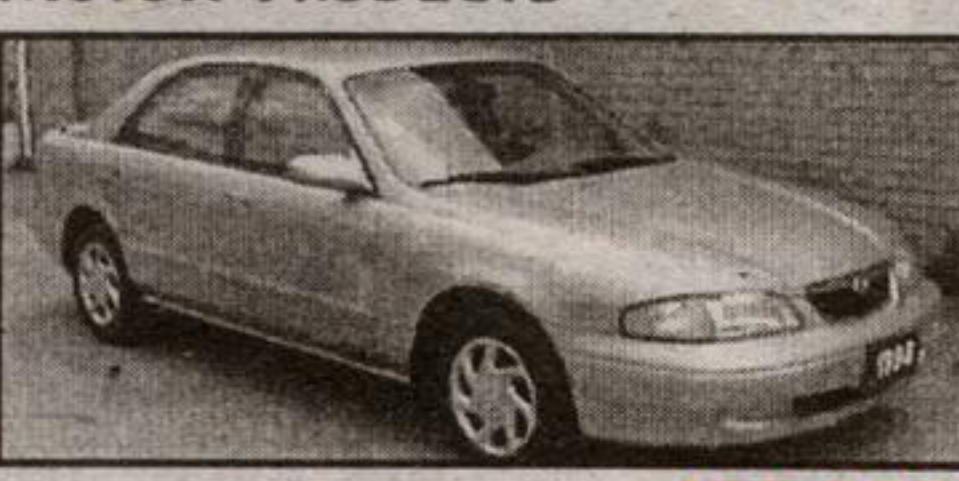
Shynal said they continue to monitor the goose population in Fairy Lake, but receive only the occasional complaint.

"I would characterize it (goose droppings) as a nuisance, as opposed to a safety or health risk, at this point."

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What's Inside



Acton Rotary Club's gavel passes over to Brian Robertson, right, from Bonnie Ross. New Rotary officers are on Page 2.



Grade 1 students at Robert Little School all got flags from Georgetown Lions Club. See photo on Page 4.



Mike O'Leary has his ideas about who is really responsible for the Walkerton water tragedy. Turn to Page 5.



It is mandatory for minor hockey players to wear mouth guards next season. See Page 9 for story.

Gates approved at Main St. crossing

Police look for recruits

The Halton Regional Police Service is on the look out for community minded, service oriented who are prepared to commit themselves to a challenging career with the police.

To meet the demands of the growing community, the Halton Regional Police Service hosted a series of "Recruiting Information Nights". The information nights were held at three locations throughout the region in hopes of attracting qualified local residents to the ranks of Halton's finest.

Recruiting and training staff from the Halton Regional Police Service were on hand to explain the constable selection process and to explain how to prepare for testing and the interview procedures. Applications were available for persons who qualified.

For information call Constable Dennis Dimitroff at 905-825-4747, ext 5062.



BELLES OF THE BALL: These seven Grade 8 students, dressed to impress, wait with anticipation before being led into the McKenzie-Smith Bennett graduation ceremony at the Acton Legion, last Tuesday. From Left to Right: Amanda Gabrielson, Leanne Wilson, Ashley Fendley, Jenny Gibson, Maria Mouridson, Kayleigh Coleman and multi-awardee, Urooj Siddiqui. — Karen Coleman photo

Acton educator retires after 30 years

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Dave Boycott's ready smile, willingness to listen and lead by example will be missed by staff and students at Acton High School. Boycott has retired after a 31-year career in Acton.

Boycott, 53, began teaching in 1969 at McKenzie-Smith and transferred to AHS in 1991. He was most recently the department head for math, sciences and physical education.

Boycott, who grew up in Oakville, said he always wanted to be a teacher, and

has no regrets about never teaching anywhere but in Halton, joking, "I've had a sheltered life."

Looking back on his career Boycott said the best time he had was running a fundraiser for Acton high school student Matthew Flee, who was paralyzed in an accident.

"With the support of the community, staff and students we were able to buy a van for Matthew, and I think that was pretty special," Boycott said, adding he hopes retirement will give him more time to renew old friendships.

Retirement doesn't include slowing

down — Boycott was known for riding his bicycle to school from his rural home in all kinds of nasty weather. For the past four years he's worked at a golf course near Hamilton, owned by his father-in-law.

"That's what I'm going to do basically, just switch from teaching to more time (spent) at the golf course working," he said.

Colleague Anne Andrews said she'd miss her friend's easy manner, open mind and willingness to give kids a chance.

"Kids always found him as a very ap-

Continued on Page 2.

But traffic lights have to wait

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
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Rail crossing gates with flashing lights will be installed at the Main Street North level crossing by November 30, but traffic signals at the nearby Main Street North-Highway 7 intersection will have to wait.

The Town had hoped both jobs would be done at the same time, but during a site visit last Thursday, the Town's consultant said the province isn't in a position to fund the signalization project at this time.

The Main Street gates are one of 21 rail crossing projects announced last week by Transport Canada in an effort to increase safety. The federal government will pay for 80 per cent of the project — \$173,500 — while the Town's share is 12 per cent — \$27,500 and the Goderich Exeter Railway's share is \$19,000.

Town Council asked Transport Canada to reassess safety at all 14 level railway crossing in town — 10 on Town-owned roads and four Regional roads — following two fatal accidents involving four deaths at the Fourth Line rail crossing. Barrier gates were installed at that crossing last month, and now there are eight level crossings in Halton Hills without gates.

The Town's manager of design and development, Rick Henry, said until the

Continued on Page 3.

Spring Breakthrough Event



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