

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Left out again!

It looks like construction of a new Halton Hills Leisure Centre in south Georgetown will go ahead with the announcement Monday that both the federal and provincial governments will each contribute up to \$1,575,000 to the more than \$11 million project.

The Town, according to a joint press release from Super Build (Ontario) and Industry Canada, will have to ante up the rest of the \$8,142,000 for the 34,000 square foot centre, which will include a six-lane competitive pool, a therapeutic pool, a sauna, and a leisure pool with water slide. Also in the facility will be a multi-purpose hall with kitchen, office, meeting and change rooms.

The lobby of the complex will also house a museum display to promote awareness and history of Halton Region.

And where is this Taj Mahal of a leisure complex going to be located? About 20 kilometres from Acton and area, south of Georgetown, putting it out of reach for a good many people in this community and area.

It's a poor choice of location especially since many Brampton residents will be closer to it than the people who live in Acton and area - and growing. A location on the west end of Georgetown would have been much fairer to all the people who comprise this part of Halton Hills.

We are surprised that our political representatives, both Julian Reed and Ted Chudleigh, would agree to pouring so much government "investment" into a location that takes little concern for the feelings of their northern constituents.

We're not surprised at Halton Hills Council, which could only give a paltry \$20,000 to replace the old arena with a proper building, but can readily agree to supply over \$8 million to build a leisure centre in Georgetown. I guess they figure we can travel the extra miles for our leisure activities.

The governments supplying the \$1,575,000 each maintain the grants are there to "improve the quality of life in their communities." Well, we can tell them it won't do much to improve the quality of life in this part of Halton Hills.

Lest we be perceived as proverbial dog without a bone, we might also note it took 18 months to raise the \$2 million required to twin the Alcott arena and get started on the recreation complex.

Since the leisure centre is already over budget it may require more fundraising to follow through on the project. It would be much easier to raise money in this neck of the woods if the leisure centre was closer.

Water woes

Halton Region officials assured residents of Lakeview that water flowing in the subdivision's water mains is safe to drink and is being closely monitored as a solution to problems is being worked out. The problems were well aired at a meeting last week between residents and officials.

The Region hired a consulting firm to come up with a realistic solution to chlorine residual problems in the northwest corner of Lakeview, and brown water which is spilling from the taps. Officials acknowledged the strong chlorine smell some encounter comes from the strong doses of chlorine being used to maintain adequate levels in the problem area where water doesn't flow as freely as it should. Brown water, consultants argue, comes from inside the mains, which are made of cast iron pipe installed 40-odd years ago.

Consultants have recommended that partial or full relining of the pipes to counter the deterioration. Bleeders in the problem area have kept water flowing better.

Region CAO Brent Marshall's exceptional knowledge of the Acton system, which he brands as one of Halton's best, certainly shed a light on the problems encountered in Lakeview. He feels work can start on resolving the problems in late summer or early fall. Relining the mains with epoxy is expected to solve the problems and add another 20 to 40 years of use before they are replaced.

Some Lakeview residents feel they should be recompensed for the inconvenience they have suffered as a result of the problems especially since they had to bleed their pipe with metered water. Some resorted to bottled water at extra expense. The Region would be well advised to consider some action on their behalf.



MILLION DOLLAR SMILES: Thanks to matching \$1.57-million grants from the Federal and Provincial governments, the Town can proceed with its plans to build an \$11.3-million leisure and community centre in Georgetown South. On hand to make the announcement to Acting Mayor Joan Robson (second from right) were from left: Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh, Halton MP Julian Reed, the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State (Rural Development) (FedNor) and Mold-Masters representative Craig Renwick. - Frances Niblock photo

How to foil the phonies

I wanted to do some writing last week, however, following some complications over that weekend, I bypassed for this week instead.

Prior to that I had talked to Hartley about what I wanted to do. As usual, he listened to my idea and replied in his normal response with a "sure." To my surprise, my neighbour on the opposite page, Mike O'Leary had delved into the same sort of topic last week.

Mike made some very good points, and dare I say, I agreed with him on his interrogation of the mystery sales people. I often have the same questions as he did.

For years, my father has shown me things at work, like phoney yellow pages invoices. He would call me into his office, show me the invoice and say, "Well, what do you think?" The first few were my downfall. I would stare at them and say to him, "Give it to Delia to pay?" That was definitely the wrong answer. He would point out all the things that made it a counterfeit invoice.

I was also taught to avoid people who call up and ask to confirm information for a directory. Before you know it, a directory is shipped to you C.O.D. and the cost for it could be quite a bit. The same went for those people who call up just to confirm the make and model of your photocopier. Days later, you could



Angela Tyler

get a carton of photocopy paper, probably three times what you would normally pay for one.

Then there are the ones that pounce unsuspectedly on businesses. They come in just wanting to drop off some cookbooks or selling extra T-shirts, bad art or gadgets nobody is ever interested in. I will ask them to leave and not bother any of the other offices in our building, since we have three entrances. Every time they go down the stairs and go into one of the other offices. Being one up on them, I see them in our video monitor, surprise them and chase them off the property.

Like most people, I continually get called at home or at my door for donations of some form or another. I always try to support the local schools and a few charities. About once a month, I get the circus call. You must know the one. Someone calls up, of course, at the most inconvenient time and wants you to help underprivileged kids. You can buy tickets to the circus, or just donate the money and they will use the

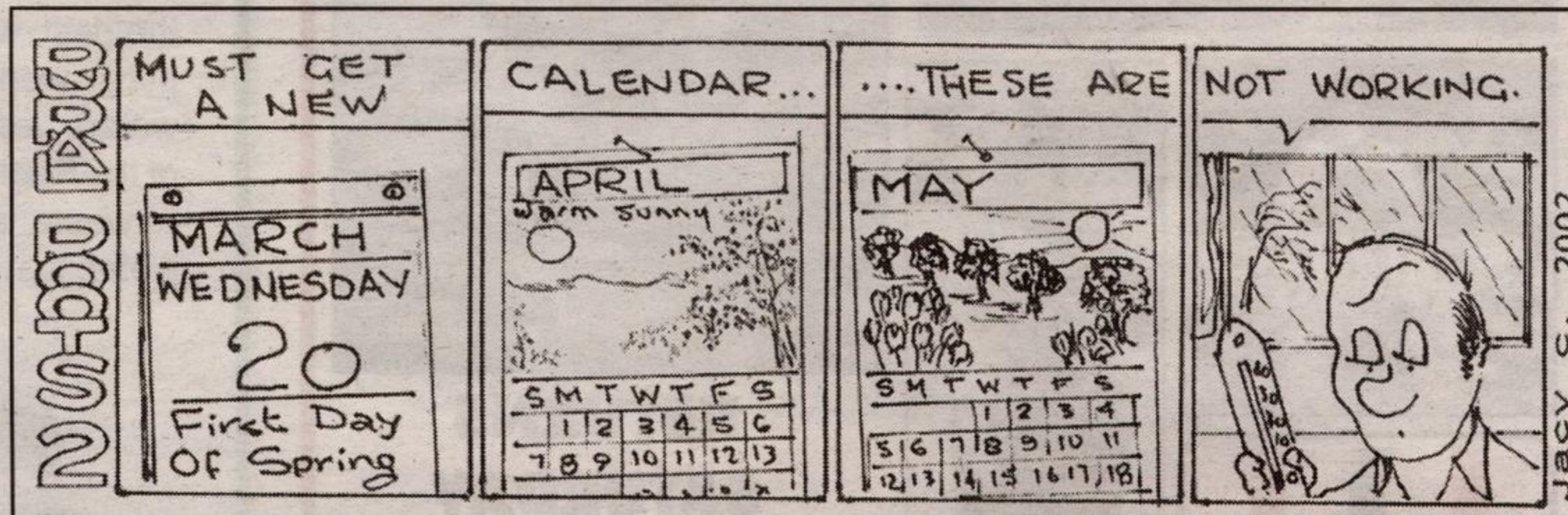
tickets to give to the kids.

At first, I felt bad not buying tickets. That was until one day, the person calling told me they support local charities. (Bad move on their part.) So I told them if they can name just one charity in Acton they support, I would buy the tickets. I was put on hold and I waited. Finally, they returned and they said their supervisor told them about a half dozen charities...none of which were from Acton or even Halton Hills. Needless to say, I didn't spend any money because they couldn't name any.

Just when I thought I heard from all the charities that could solicit over the phone, someone will call with an old sales list. This is when it gets fun for me.

They start off with their name and company or charity and ask for Mr. or Mrs. Warwick. At first, I get a little taken back before I get my chuckle. That was my last name when I was married. "Gee, there is nobody here by that name" I tell them.

They never know what to say at that point. They ask if I'm sure, then confirm the phone number, which I do confirm. As I giggle away to myself, they apologize. No lies were told; my pocket book was still intact; I had no guilt and my mission was accomplished. I rid myself of another telemarketer!



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