

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Fixing the pipes

Residents of Lakeview subdivision in Acton will be happy to know Halton Region council transferred funds from two other projects in the Region so problem water mains in the subdivision can be lined with epoxy to combat water problems.

The Region acted quickly in identifying the problem which cropped up last fall in the taps of Lakeview residents. Some homes had low chloride "residuals". Others experienced periods of cloudy, discoloured water in their taps.

The low chlorine levels, especially in the north-west corner of the subdivision, was rectified by flushing and swabbing the water distribution system and installing two "bleeder" at locations deemed to be strategic.

Chlorine levels at the Prospect Park well were also increased to ensure that the chlorine residual was up to regulated standards of the Ministry of Environment (MOE). However, the MOE remembering Walkerton, wasn't satisfied. They wanted a more permanent solution.

A consultant was hired and after extensive research, the firm recommended a phased-in program of pipe lining to be implemented, estimated to cost \$540,000.

The consultants indicated the iron content from the walls of the cast iron water mains was degrading the chlorine residual and causing the "brown" water. Lining with epoxy was recommended because it has been used in similar situations with much success. A phased in program would cut the cost of an estimated \$1.2 million if lining all the mains was done.

Halton Council last week voted to approve the expenditure of \$540,000 for the work, which Region CAO told The New Tanner would hopefully start in the early fall.

Two projects, one in Georgetown, the other on Derry Road, west of Milton were deferred so the Region could squeeze the cost of lining the water mains into the 2002 budget. The gravity of the Acton situation and the insistence of the MOE on a permanent solution may have galvanized the Region into action but much credit must go to Acton natives, CAO Brent Marshall and Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette, for their work on steering the solution to the water problems through the complexity of political and financial systems at the Region.

School's out! Slow down

School's out this week for the summer and it's a signal for drivers to be extra careful - to slow down.

Released from the discipline of classes, children tend to be freer and more easy going than usual. They dart out in front of vehicles, between parked cars, chasing balls and other play things, oblivious of the danger.

They ride bicycles with utter abandon on sidewalks, in tandem on roads, even those with heavy traffic. They disdain crosswalks for the ease of jaywalking.

Children, like some teens, think they're indestructible.

All the more reason for drivers to be extra careful on all our streets, roads, and highways in sun-soaked days and especially at dusk and dark.

One tragic mishap can spoil a whole summer. Let's exercise every precaution to see it doesn't happen.



MEDIEVAL MONARCHS: The King and Queen of the Medieval Feast at McKenzie-Smith Bennett school held court last week in the school gym. Taylor Buchanan, the king, and his queen Emily Vickery are flanked by the Egyptian queen Nicky Sparrel and the Pharaoh Dillon Lewis. Trumpeter Dillon Burgess sounded the royal salute.

Shocking hair dryer revelations

My sister has come a long way in learning to handle things with me.

I remember about two years ago I mentioned a column to her I had just written. She told me she usually didn't read them, or at least not straight away. I thought to myself, fair enough, I don't usually read her pieces in The Star. People usually come to me and tell me they read a story she wrote. However, I'm just too cheap to subscribe to that paper. Her reasoning for not reading mine at the time was when she saw my byline, she cringed because she didn't know what would come out of my mouth.

That's why it struck me oddly when she helped me out last week. Then on Sunday she came to me bearing a gift.

A week or so ago her hair dryer broke. I recommended a Conair brand since I have had such good luck with them. In her hand on Sunday was the manual to a Conair hair dryer.

At the time, I wasn't really sure why she had it with her. Sometimes she isn't a techno-wizard so I thought perhaps she needed help. I was wrong though.

"Since nothing seems to be too small for you to write about, Ted (father) and I thought you might want to see this," she said. My dear sister was no longer cringing. Tracey was actually giving me more ideas. She handed me the book and said look at page two, number 7.

Page two of the Conair Cordkeeper Instructions and Styl-



By: Angela Tyler

ing Guide starts...to reduce the risk of death or injury by electric shock. How encouraging I thought sarcastically to myself. It had the basics, such as unplug it after use and don't drop it into water. However, it did have a few more interesting points.

Then I started thinking about this. Usually companies are basically forced into adding instructions after some idiot lacking common sense does something dumb. Number two in the handbook: do not use while bathing. As I rolled my eyes, it continued with: If the appliance does fall into water, DO NOT REACH INTO THE WATER. I better remind her as well that number nine says she is not permitted to use the hair dryer outside.

However, number seven was unbelievable. It read: Never use while sleeping. How do you use a hair dryer while you're sleeping? Maybe if it's really cold you could turn the hair dryer on then stick it under the covers to warm your bed up. That's if you don't have an electric blanket.

Maybe they were talking about sleep walkers? I've heard of people doing odd things when they were sleep walking but not usually blow drying their hair. I think I walked in

my sleep once. One evening I hung a freshly laundered pair of pants, yet slightly damp, over the top of my bedroom door. The next morning they were folded neatly on the top of my standing lamp beside my bed.

For the longest time, I insisted I had a ghost, but my parents said I must have done it. Had I walked in my sleep when I was living at home? Probably, since I talk in my sleep. My sister made sure she reminded me of that after we shared a room in Edmonton.

I continued reading the instructions and near the end in very large print it said: *Save these instructions, operating instructions.* It reviewed volts, the polarized plug and other items then it went on to tell how to start the hair dryer.

1. Pull the cord slowly from the dryer.

2. Plug in the dryer then turn on the heat/speed switch.

3. To retract cord, hold dryer vertically upright and away from your face. Press and hold the button....

Then at the end it said: *Do not retract the cord while dryer is plugged in.*

I thought if you have to tell someone not to use a hair dryer while you're having a bath, or while you're sleeping, shouldn't you tell them to turn the dryer off, then unplug it, then retract the cord.

I wonder how many people pulled the plug out of the wall before turning the dryer off. I think I'll write them and tell them they forgot a step.



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