



**WET & WILD:** Acton's Len Tuitman was repeatedly dunked by eager participants at a dunk tank operated by Halton Hills Community Support and Information during the Leathertown Festival. Proceeds from the tank are earmarked for Acton youth programming. — Frances Niblock photo



**CROWD PLEASER:** Acton's Bev Boisvenue gave a rousing rendition of O Canada, and then entertained the crowd with several songs during the official opening of the Leathertown Festival. — Frances Niblock photo



**YOUTH PROGRAM DONATION:** Halton Hills Community Support and Information treasurer Reg Swain gratefully accepted a \$1,000 cheque from Leathertown Festival official Josey Bonnette during the opening ceremonies of the successful event. — Frances Niblock photo

# Per-bag garbage fee proposed

Halton staff will look at charging people for the number of garbage bags they put at the curb weekly at the request of Acton and Halton Councillor Rick Bonnette who said a per-bag fee would encourage people to produce less garbage.

Currently, Halton taxpayers can dispose as many as six bags per week, but collection staff use discretion in picking up excess bags. Garbage collection costs are currently included on the property tax bill and would be removed from the bill if a per-bag system were implemented.

Noting that other Ontario municipalities have instituted pay-per-bag systems and Hamilton is looking into it, Bonnette said it's an idea that should be investigated.

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In a related issue, Halton will not take any of Toronto's trash if it is asked to. Members of the Region's planning and public works committee say Halton's difficult fight to find and open a site, its life expectancy and size are major reasons for rejecting an expected proposal call from Toronto to accept some of its garbage on a temporary basis.

## TOWN DIGEST

Acton and Halton Councillor Rick Bonnette, chair of Halton's planning and public works committee, said, "We're not interested right now, and will try to help with other means," Bonnette said, calling Halton's landfill in Milton a "\$100-million baby."

He said when the site was approved in the mid-1980s, it was given a 25-year life span, but through composting, diversion, and beefed up Blue Box programs, the site will be capable of handling Halton's waste for another 40 years.

### User fee review

Debate on proposed increases in some of the Town's user fees, licensing fees and service charges has been postponed until September 22, after councillors determined ratepayers needed more notice.

The Town is hoping to generate an additional \$250,000 in revenue by increasing some user fees, licensing fees and service charges in the clerk's and recreation and parks department.

Council agreed to defer the debate until next month after two salvage yard

owners who attended public meeting on the issue earlier this month, complained the proposed 2,500 per cent licensing fee increase, to \$500 from \$20, had been "sprung on everyone," with no review or input.

Councillors also asked that the proposed fee schedule be posted on the Town's web site. The proposed changes in user fees, licensing fees and service charges are slated to take effect January, 2004.

### Ransom conversion

The owners of an apartment building being converted into condominiums on Ransom Street are working towards finishing the project according to

Town staff who were asked to review the progress after several residents complained promised work had not been completed.

The 31-unit Ransom building is the first condo conversion in Halton Hills. All but six units have been converted to condos and sold and one unoccupied unit is for sale. When the application for conversion was approved, renters in the building were guaranteed they could continue as tenants in the building for 10 years.

Town staff said after several inspections at the building late last month, they are confident the necessary work that hasn't been completed on the building's exterior, parking lot and gazebo, will be done.

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