

A general public opinion poll completed in the US 10 - 15 years ago, asked people if they had heard the term "Chamber of Commerce" – 98% responded that they had and 95% went on to respond that they perceived a Chamber to be something positive or good yet less than 1 in 5 could provide a specific response when asked to identify something the Chamber does.

While our Chamber of Commerce has been in existence locally since 1912, I'm sure if Halton Hills residents were polled today, the response would be very similar to the US poll.

A Chamber of Commerce is not a department of the town, region or provincial governments. Nor is it a social service agency, a service club or charitable institution. It is neither a private advertising, publicity or public relations agency nor a type of bank or financial institution.

A Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization that unites businesses and professional people in an effort to develop the economy of an area. A Chamber of Commerce is PEOPLE. Our business members become involved and accomplish collectively what one of them could not do alone, creating a pool of resources from which to draw ideas, energies and opportunities. Many Chamber members opt to volunteer their time on one of our many committees. Volunteering increases their exposure within the community, but also strengthens the

General Manager's Desk

Sue Walker

local economy.

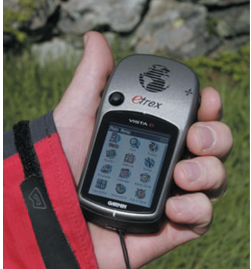
While our Chamber offers many resources and opportunities to help local businesses to grow, we are also a valuable resource for local residents. Our Chamber staff field many questions each day. We answer questions from students working on local history projects for school, and give referrals to homeowners looking for reputable trades people. We supply demographic information to out-of-town business owners who are considering relocating to Halton Hills. We create relocation packages for people considering moving to Halton Hills that includes information on schools, churches, sports groups, housing, etc. We know what time the Santa Claus parade starts, where to catch the bus to Guelph, can give directions to our arenas, to-out of-town hockey teams and know who to contact if you have a question about garbage pick up.

As a business owner consider joining the Chamber – to help grow your business and to help support our local business economy. As a resident, call us the next time you have a question you just can't find the answer to.

Geocaching in Halton Hills

By Sarah Kobsa

Geocaching is a new and exciting activity offering individuals the opportunity to explore and enjoy the beautiful landscape of Halton Hills. Part scavenger hunt, part "Amazing Race" **Geocaching** uses Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) units and coordinates which are available on the Internet (www.geocaching.com) to provide clues to caches hidden at various locations or points of interest throughout Halton Hills and around the world. Currently we have over 40 caches hidden in Halton Hills alone, and this number continues to increase. Caches have logbooks to record your name and many contain little gifts or tokens.



involves a history lesson on "The Georgetown Boys" (What year did they arrive? Answer found on a plaque located in the park), basic math and lining up coordinates based on your answers. Caches tend to be well hidden unless you know where to look and are always rewarding to find.

Other caches are hidden along the Bruce Trail through Limehouse, along the Credit River in Glen Williams and in Willow Park Ecology Centre in Norval. In Georgetown

there are caches hidden at The Old Seed House Gardens, The GO Station, in Historic Downtown, and at Mold-Masters SportsPlex. Acton has caches hidden around Fairy Lake, along the old Guelph Radial Line, and in the Downtown core.

So grab a GPS, a couple of friends and a notebook to start recording your "finds" and get out and discover parts of Halton Hills you didn't even know existed. Want more information? Contact the Chamber and request the "Lets Go Geocaching" brochure. 905-877-7119 or www.haltonhillschamber.on.ca

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