



MEANT NO HARM: Kimberly Bouclair said before she left her grandmother, 97-year-old Phyllis Arnott of Acton, in the back of a locked SUV while she and her mother shopped, they rolled down the front windows almost all the way. A passerby found Arnott dehydrated and incoherent and called 911. She was taken to hospital where she's recovering, and Bouclair and her 60-year-old mother Bonnie Bouclair, have been charged with failing to provide the necessities of life. — *Frances Niblock photo*

Women shop while grandma is locked in their SUV...

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Arnott was taken to a Burlington hospital where her condition continues to improve as authorities find her a new place to live. The Bouclairs were charged with failing to provide the necessities of life, handcuffed and taken to a Burlington police station.

Kimberly Bouclair, who said police were "rough" with them during their arrests, said they were held for several hours and released when they agreed not to have any contact with Arnott.

Halton police said Arnott could not get out of the car on her own because she is frail and not mobile enough to unlock the doors.

"We weren't intending to do her any harm," Kimberly Bouclair said on Monday as several reporters and television crew camped out on their Peel Street driveway.

Bouclair said her grandmother had a headache so they stopped at the plaza to get her some pain medication, leaving her in the backseat to have a nap. She said the doors were locked and the front windows almost fully open.

"We do regret it — we are very remorseful and upset — we haven't been sleeping and eating and we've been crying because we are worried about her. We really love her," Kimberly Bouclair said, adding the hospital called them on Sunday night to say Arnott was crying for them to come and get her.

"She loves us, and it's hard for her to be away from us," Arnott's granddaughter said, adding Arnott is well

fed, well dressed, happy and well cared for.

"We're very sad about this," Bonnie Bouclair said, adding that they take her mother out for car rides "all the time" and sometimes go out for dinner.

Both women said they are worried Arnott will die if she doesn't come home soon. They said their lawyer said he would meet with the Crown Attorney to try to get Arnott back to her Acton home.

"She'll die without us," Bonnie Bouclair said, questioning who will pay for it, if her mother is put in a nursing home.

Bonnie Bouclair is worried about all of the

publicity — a TV crew staked out their house on Monday for an interview, the issue was debated on a CFRB talk show and reporters from local and Toronto papers have interviewed the pair.

"We hope that people don't feel too bad, too nasty about us because like, it's not something that we done on purpose."

Three of the Bouclair's neighbours — none of whom wanted their names used — said they'd had run-ins with the Bouclairs over minor issues in the past, and in numerous instances, police had been involved.

The Bouclairs appear in a Milton court on August 25.

Acton indoor swim pool gets \$90,000 in upgrades

The Acton indoor pool will get a new furnace, and, for the first time, air conditioning, with \$90,000 in improvements approved by Council recently.

Staff said a roof-mounted system would save the Town \$4,800 a year in energy costs or \$129,381 over the 20-year life span of the proposed new unit.

Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary noted the original budget to replace the 32-year-old furnace was \$30,000, and asked where the additional cash would come from. Staff said it could come from the capital reserve fund.

Staff also said the Town doesn't own the pool, but has an agreement with the Halton District Board of Education to operate and maintain the facility and the Town is a "stakeholder" that will get to keep the energy savings.

Population grants

The Town now has proof to back the suspicion it is

TOWN DIGEST

not getting its "fair share" of provincial and federal grants that are calculated on population figures from the 2002 Canada Census.

A staff report found that if the Town received grants based on the actual population of 58,000, it would see 20 per cent more money, a \$1-million increase to total \$6.1-million dollars.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said other municipalities are also asking for their fair share.

"These dollars are very significant dollars that could have gone a long way in just one year," Bonnette said.

Council will support a move by Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh to have all population-based government funding calculated using the most current property tax rolls. Council will also ask Premier McGuinty and Wellington-Halton Hills MP

Mike Chong to support the change.

Based on the 2001 Census figures the Town expects \$5-million in federal and provincial grants and gas tax rebates.

Staff said using the actual population figure, Halton Hills would have received \$6.1-million.

Education contract

No details have been released, but the Halton District School Board has ratified a new contract with its 500 educational assistants.

The deal was supported by 95 per cent of Educational Assistants, and covers September 2004 to August 2008.

The public school board is losing Associate Director Barry Finlay for two years.

The Ministry of Education has seconded him as director of strategic policy and planning for special education.

Open House

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CELEBRATING 93: Grandmother Phyllis Arnott, centre, is shown as she celebrated her 93rd birthday in April 2002 with granddaughter Kimberly Bouclair, left, and daughter Bonnie Bouclair, right. Mrs. Arnott, now a spry 97, was left in the family's vehicle during the severe heat Saturday while the other two women shopped at a Wal-Mart store in Burlington. Temperatures in the vehicle were estimated at 50°C.—*Ted Tyler photo.*

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