

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Truck inspections

Mayor Rick Bonnette is rightly concerned that truck traffic, particularly gravel trucks, are trying to avoid weigh scales on Highway 401 and using Acton's narrow main street for a bypass. He wants the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to do inspections on trucks entering Acton to send out word it's not an acceptable route.

There's no doubt the volume of large trucks using Acton streets has increased considerably in the last year. Whether it is, as the mayor speculates, a manoeuvre to avoid the 401 weigh scales is more than conjecture. Truck traffic blitzes conducted by Halton police and the MTO continually take many of the trucks inspected off the road for safety as well as other violations.

The situation along Highway 7 and Regional Road 25 (formerly Hwy 25) is compounded when collisions occur on 401 and traffic is rerouted. Collisions are occurring almost daily along 401 involving trucks, many of them in the Milton to Guelph Line corridor, or near the James Snow Parkway. Truck drivers use the most convenient routes to avoid collision scenes which often tie up traffic for hours.

However, even the fact that negotiating downtown Mill St. in Acton is often a feat that requires skills that tax even the best drivers, the trucks keep coming. Sometimes they alarm others, drivers and pedestrians.

As Councillor Mike O'Leary pointed out at the last meeting of Halton Hills Council measures shouldn't be taken to discourage legitimate traffic serving local business. However, truck inspections in town could do much to make sure the rigs which choose the route through Acton pass safety and other regulations.

Downtown Acton was never planned as a major traffic route. Main St. was projected as the main street but because the railway ran through in 1856 when horse and buggy was the main method of transport, Highway 7 followed its route. It has not been built to withstand the heavy volumes of traffic now using it.

Pesticides killer

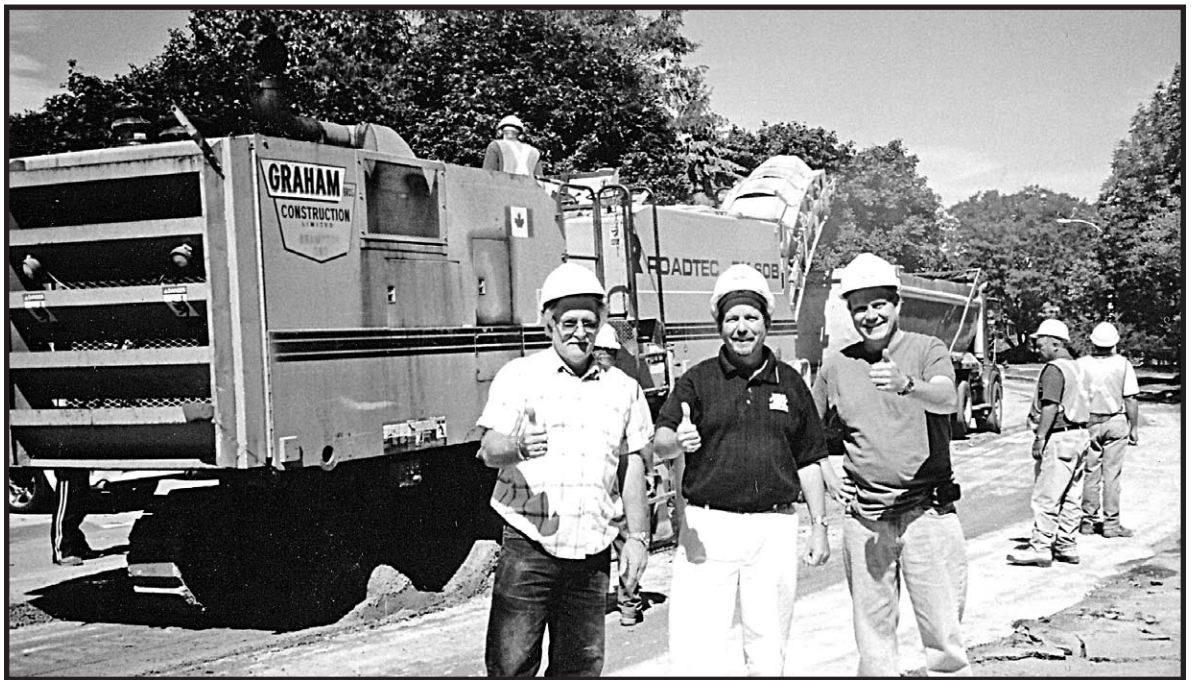
Although we are concerned about the spread of the West Nile virus (WNV), the dead birds and the possibility of infection in humans, the National Audubon Society in the U.S. also points out there is another common hazard we pay little heed to – pesticides.

A New York State wildlife official discovered that most dead birds (80,000) collected for a study of WNV died from pesticide poisoning rather than the virus. Some birds expired from WNV but the leading cause of death was common lawn chemicals such as Diazon and Dursban.

"Like canaries in a coal mine, birds warn of danger in our environment. If these chemicals kill birds, what are they doing to our kids?" asks Audubon's senior vice president of science, Frank Gill.

Pesticides have been linked to a wide range of human health hazards from headaches to reproductive harm but so far as we know the dangers from their use has never been authoritatively spelled out. If they are killing birds then they obviously carry some risk for humans.

It is difficult to strike a balance between the use of government approved pesticides and the spread of noxious plants but surely the findings in the U.S. deserve more study here to find out how lethal pesticides are to both humans and animals.



CHEWING UP THE ROAD: Town council has dedicated two per cent of taxes to improving pavement on local roads for three years, but this is the first time the work has involved Acton streets. Graham Brothers turned their big asphalt grinder loose on Acton Boulevard Monday getting rid of the old material preparatory to laying down new. Coun. Jon Hurst, left, Mayor Rick Bonnette, centre, and Coun. Clark Somerville offered a thumbs up to the job which will continue on Norman Avenue, MacDonald Boulevard, Cedar Street and George Street. Rather than taking the chewed up asphalt to a plant for recycling, Graham's trucks are taking it directly to Glen Lawson Road where Halton Hills works department crews are spreading and compacting it for the town's own "recycling" and resurfacing project. – Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Some words, phrases irritate me

Have you ever heard someone say a word or a phrase and think to yourself, "That isn't a word," or "Why would they say that, it doesn't make sense?"

Years ago, I remember my sister giving me heck about some of my word choices. Her biggest gripe was the word anyways. She is insistent that there is no such word as anyways. The word anyway exists but not the word anyways. I don't know if she is right or not, but, I have corrected my vocabulary and eliminated the plural version of the word from my life.

Incorrect words don't really bother me, yet there are some phrases that drive me batty. I know this lady who, whenever she would leave you, she'd say, "Have a good one." For months it irked me. Finally, one day, I angrily asked her, "Have a good what?" She looked at me in shock, wondering what I was talking about and why I was upset.

"Have a good what?" I asked



By
Angela Tyler

again and I was getting upset. "You always say that. Do you want me to have a good day, a good life, a good lunch, a good hair cut... WHAT?" I was flustered and at the same time felt so much better finally getting it off my chest.

The happy-go-lucky lady just shrugged her shoulders and nonchalantly replied, "Whatever you like... have a good one," and then she left. Was I the only person bothered by this phrase?

I noticed, listening to the Dude while he chats on the telephone, that he has a phrase that really irritates me. I know there is probably lots of things I do or say that irritate him, but I felt it was my responsibility as a good wife to tell him he was number two on my fictional

list of people who have irritating phrases.

One evening while he was talking to one of his friends I finally had to confront him. Then, as the call was coming to an end there it was. "Okay... talk ta' ya." The phrase had been said and the call was complete. My eyes were rolling and I'm sure I was groaning.

I shot the Dude my best disgusted look. He had the same look of shock that the "have a good one" lady had. "What?" he asked me. "I can't stand that" I declared. "Why do you say talk to ya' at the end? Why can't you say talk to you later or tomorrow or next month or just bye?"

His reply was simple. "Because I don't know when I will talk to them again."

Maybe I was having a bad day. Maybe I was just seeing too much into all this. Anyways, maybe I should just worry about having a good one.



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