EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Norm Elliott's right

Sometimes the precipitate actions of governments doesn't take in the social consequences they incur. For instance, the imposition of the Greenbelt in a willy nilly manner put restraints on communities such as Acton where the local seniors housing has become a crisis

Former Acton Councillor, Norm Elliott outlined the situation to Halton Hills Council last week in a submission on Halton Region's Sustainable Halton plan. Elliott told council that the restraints placed on Acton with the Greenbelt and the lack of potable water has created an affordable housing crisis for seniors in Acton.

As he said, there are people who have lived all their lives, raised families and are very involved with the community have had to pack up and leave for other towns and cities because no affordable housing in Acton when they need to downsize.

"Acton's filled to capacity," Elliott told councillors, urging them to go to the Province to make some small adjustments to the Greenbelt so Acton could enjoy the same advantage other communities have.

As he said, "Acton's needs are just as they are in other municipalities." Many seniors who call Acton home are prepared to downsize. They've lived in Acton most of their lives but there are few affordable options open to them. Often, the only option is moving elsewhere, leaving family, friends and organizations they have been associated with most of their lives.

We agree with Norm Elliott. Council should try to have some of those Greenbelt restraints modified so social situations like a senior's affordable housing crisis in Acton can be corrected. Seniors deserve the consideration.

Norm Elliott's right.

Violence repulsive

YWCA Canada urged Canadians "to take action against violence in the wake of the latest alarming statistics" on serious violent crime – Week Without Violence campaign Oct. 14-20, 2007.

Newspapers across the country scream out the headlines every day: murder, rape, armed robbery and assault. This isn't just sensational reporting; the latest Statistics Canada Reports prove that serious crime is on the rise in Canada.

While the overall Violent crime rate remained stable in 2006, the number of serious violent crimes was up with people reporting a second consecutive annual increase in attempted murders (Crime Statistics: Stats Can 2007). Incidences of violence against women, child abuse, youth violence, and workplace violence remain all too prevalent if they are not in fact on the rise.

The YWCA's call for action with a week set aside to increase awareness of violence in society is a wake-up call for all of us but we need to expand our horizons to fight violence for the entire 12 months of the year.

How can we start? By joining with others in condemning violence in our families, our own communities and among those with whom we associate. Fueled by drugs and the hypersexualization of society, violence can be curbed by making it not only anti-social but those who practice it ashamed of their actions.

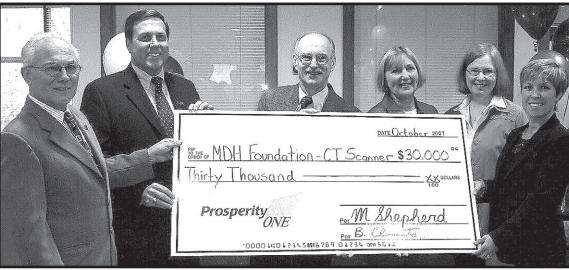
It has to start with us.

Briefly...

Business in downtown Acton must be breathing a sigh of relief as King Construction cleans up after two months of road construction on Acton's Main St. Now the project is complete, motorists are also enjoying the smooth surface after what one councillor described as a "goat path."

* * *

There's still some brilliant foliage but gusty winds over the last week have denuded most of the colour from sugar maples which usually dress up best for the fall season. Experts are blaming the dry, hot summer for more pastel look of foliage this year.



CT SCANNER: Milton District Hospital's campaign to purchase a CT Scanner got a big boost from Prosperity One's \$30,000 donation at a recent cheque presentation. Left to right are: Brad Clement, Chair, Prosperity ONE Charitable Foundation; Mike Shepherd, CEO, Prosperity ONE Credit Union; Michael Beaver, MDHF Board Member; Linda MacLeod, CT Scanner Volunteer; Marsha Beaver, CT Scanner Volunteer and Rosa Martins, MDHF Board Member. – Submitted photo.

A memorable trip to Pincher Creek

In August, I had mentioned I was in Alberta. My sister was covering a conference. She works for a daily national paper and as her story was yet to be published, so I couldn't really discuss our Western adventure... I wasn't allowed to "scoop" her.

She and I had talked on the phone. She suggested that I might want to come out to Alberta for a getaway. I hesitated but, in the end, jumped at the escape offer.

Before I knew it, I was on an airplane headed for nowhere Alberta in the middle of nothingville. As we drove the countryside, I thought, gheesh, Limehouse has a more going for it than some of these towns.

I repeatedly said to my sister, "Gawd, you wouldn't want to forget to pick up milk when you did groceries..." It seemed you would travel hours before reaching another town, let alone a grocery store. Granted, the scenery was beautiful. Yet on the other hand, it surely made you appreciate the 'Golden Triangle' where everything is within a few minutes drive.

Within a few hours we were in Pincher Creek. She was visiting to cover another story. I was just riding shot-gun. The locals called it P-creek. I told my sister the reason they called it P-creek was because most people could pee more than what was in the creek. It seemed to be a nowhere dead-end town. There



Angela Tyler

were a few things, even a Wal-mart, yet, the town seemed to be lacking somewhat or so I thought until, after a day or two away at a nearby resort town, we were summoned back for the local rodeo.

It was the highlight of my trip. It was one of the most awesome things I had ever experienced. My camera was going a mile a minute as I ran out of disks over and over again. Before it ended ,I probably had close to 200 photos. I was a rodeo roadie. I was hooked. There were cowboys and cowgirls and cowkids. There were bucking broncos, bare-back riders, steer wrestling and roping. The whole shebang.

At one point I had to chuckle when my sister asked did they really need to rope the calves? I responded with, "That is why they call it calf roping. After all, they did practice catch and release, kind of like fishing does."

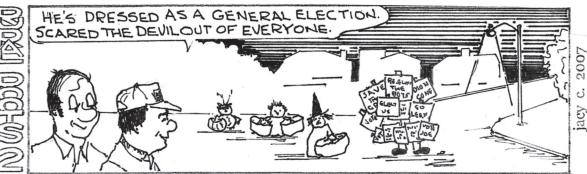
I thought we were going to be at the P-creek rodeo for maybe an hour or two. After experiencing it all - including a bag of nacho chips that the local 4-H sells, opened up with homemade chili globbed on it (they do provide you a fork upon request) - at 7 p.m. That night, we

were one of the last ones to leave the rodeo grounds. Our rent-a-car was squeezed in between a parade of big Western Canada pick -up trucks pulling, even bigger Western Canada horse trailers. Somehow, nothingville Alberta was seeming pretty cool.

In an odd turn of events, the next best thing happened. My sister's story finally ran. Amongst my, what seemed like a million pictures, her newspaper had chosen a couple of pictures to run in the Sunday edition. I was no longer hometown, small town newspaper...I had hit the big leagues! I was published in a daily paper that was distributed nationally and throughout North America. Holy crap! I even had a photo credit. I was so proud.

That was when the Dude read it. "So... Angela Tyler..." he started. The Dude has this thing about last names. He wants me to be Mrs. Dude all the time. He has a hard time with the work/maiden name thing. He realized how proud I was of my photos. The strangest thing was, at the time, my lens actually had this huge crack in it and my photos were still pretty good.

My photos, taken with a cracked lens were published nationally, even though I wasn't Mrs. Dude. This was something massively special. I am Angela, or Mrs. Dude...first section, page 7, Sunday edition, national paper....can it get any better?



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