

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Good decision

Council's decision not to sell or merge Halton Hills Hydro and its subsidiaries is one we applaud vigorously from this corner of the fourth estate.

The temptation to sell local hydro to larger companies is real and the Town would realize some short term benefits from its sale. However, as Mayor Rick Bonnette pointed out in his column last week (Dec 30/08), "We felt sure the money would be good if we sold it, but what happens in ten years and the money from the sale is gone? The we would be at the mercy of a large, faceless hydro corporation."

The decision to sell local utilities or merge with others has been sweeping across the province since the days of Premier Mike Harris. Business case analogies which propose combining assets and achieving economies of scale are supposed to net savings for municipalities, keep hydro rates down and increase dividends to share holders. It's part of the "bigger is better" syndrome.

Unfortunately, when the deal is accomplished it's uncertain who is at the rudder steering the ship. Decisions could be based on profits not on local needs and affordability. As the Mayor says Halton Hills Hydro has been reasonable with rate increases and having a company owned by the town enables the municipality to respond quickly to economic development opportunities and other challenges such as energy conservation. It also ensures the decisions lie in local hands and not in the hands of some "faceless corporation."

Some courtesy, please

More than a few drivers are annoyed by the actions of a few out-of-town motorists who drive at various speeds through Acton on their way home in the evening rush hours. Local drivers often wait for long periods, especially during snow storms and other bad weather to get on the main routes from the side streets and few are given the courtesy of allowing them into bumper-to-bumper traffic.

The worst parts of town are on Mill and Main Sts. where the traffic is heaviest. Traffic is partly controlled by the lights at Mill and Main Sts. and also on Churchill Rd. and Tanners Drive on Queen St. but the presence of many businesses along Mill and Queen where there's much in-an-out traffic can snarl things up pretty good.

One motorist on St. Alban's Drive recently, trying to get on Main N. told The New Tanner he waited until he saw what was a desirable opening. When he tried to accelerate onto Main the ice on the corner made his vehicle slip before taking off north on Main. The oncoming driver gave him the horn because the local driver wasn't out fast enough to suit him.

Inconsiderate drivers are everywhere but it's double annoying when they drive through towns such as Acton and local residents can't safely use their own streets. It only takes some courtesy to respect the fact there are others on the road who want to get to their home in Town as well as those who have miles to go before they sleep.



FLOWING SWIFTLY: The Black Creek lives up to its name as it flows to meet the Credit River at Norval. Swollen by recent rain and melting snow it flows swiftly over the Fourth Line here, through Limehouse and down the Niagara Escarpment. The creek originates from Fairy Lake in Acton and joins other tributaries of the Credit on its way to the river.

The 'Dude' has a 'honey-do' list

A few years back, my mom and sister went away for a few days. Although he was left to fend for himself and swore he would be just fine, I still felt compelled to keep an eye on him.

The day my mom was to return home, I headed over to their place at lunchtime to tidy up for my mom. I sort of had this feeling my dad would have their house okay, but not the way my mom would have had it. I just wanted everything to be looked after when she returned and nothing to worry about.

As I made their bed and started tidying up the kitchen my dad came home for lunch. He looked at me in my full Molly Maid mode and asked, "What are you doing?" He almost sounded mad. I started to explain and he informed me, "Well, stop." I was



By
Angela Tyler

shocked. What was he thinking? Then he continued... "If you tidy up, your mom won't think I was at home. Just leave it alone."

His logic didn't exactly make sense at the time. It actually just made me shake my head in wonderment. In retrospect, I have to admit his 'logic' was logical... for husbands.

After Christmas I was the one to go away for a few days without the Dude. I knew well in advance of getting married that he isn't exactly a homebody. He's the one that goes snowmobiling or to a friends cottage or away on business while I

keep the "home fires" burning. I don't mind. Home is my comfort zone.

Even though I had been away once or twice without him, this time it felt really odd. I prepared to leave him fending for himself for a few days. Packing was not a priority. My priorities were cleaning the house, making sure all the laundry was done, the dogs had food and there was food in the fridge/freezer for him to 'heat up'. He wasn't getting off that easy though. He also had a "Dude To Do" list.

"Please don't work too late and forget about the dogs needing to go out" I begged him. The list continued...install kitchen radio, take garbage and recycling out on Wednesday...after about number five on the list,

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