

Looking Back



Ten Years Ago

• Heavy equipment is carving two rural subdivisions in vacant fields west and south of Acton – 14-lots in Crewson's Corners and 20-lots on the Halton Hills-Milton Town Line between 17 and 22 Side Roads.

• Drug-sniffing dogs would be welcome at Acton High School according to the principal and co-chair of the school council. The drug dogs made sweeps of high schools in Milton and Burlington- no drugs were found.

• Officials are unable to find a temporary, let alone a permanent home, for the Acton Youth Centre. The search for a location for the drop-in and programming centre – with affordable rent – continues.

Five Years Ago

• Acton and Georgetown women will have to find elsewhere to give birth or those having a gynaecological emergency will have to go to Brampton until further notice as obstetric services are suspended at Georgetown Hospital as the only doctor providing obstetric coverage is on leave.

• The average price of an Acton home is now \$243,773 as market conditions return to a more balanced state. House sales are up 11 per cent over the previous year.

• Oil leaking from a transformer in the parking lot of Halton Hills Hydro contaminated a tributary of Black Creek that runs into Fairy Lake. Dams and absorbent material was used to clean up the spill of "clean" oil.



FAMILY BAND ROCKS KNOX: The Scott Woods Band, a family musical tradition of some seventy years, delighted a near-capacity audience Friday with their "Old Time Christmas" concert. 17 year-old Meryl Norris here presents one of several crowd-pleasing step dances, an Irish number. Woods' mother Carolyn, seated at center, has been the group's pianist for 53 years. - Charles Tysoe photo

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Winter driving tips

Ontario is cracking down on some of the most persistent, dangerous driving behaviors.

Effective January 1, 2010, penalties for the following offences will increase:

- failure to stop at a red light - the maximum fine will increase from \$500 to \$1,000

- failure to wear a seat belt and failure to ensure passengers under 16 are properly secured - the maximum fine will increase from \$500 to \$1,000

- careless driving and failure to remain at the scene of a collision - the maximum fine will increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Other existing maximum penalties for these offences will remain, including a two-year licence suspension and six-month jail term.

Penalties for drivers who do not pull over and stop for emergency vehicles or who follow fire vehicles too closely

will undergo the greatest change:

- first offence: a maximum fine of \$2,000, three demerit points plus a possible two-year licence suspension -- up from the current maximum penalty of a \$500 fine.

- subsequent offences (within five years): a maximum fine of \$4,000 fine, three demerit points, a two-year driver's licence suspension and a six-month prison sentence - up from the current maximum penalty of a \$500 fine.

It is illegal to follow a fire department vehicle within 150 metres in any lane. Drivers must move

out of the way when an emergency vehicle is approaching from either direction.

Approximately one quarter of all drivers and passengers killed in motor vehicle collisions are not wearing a seatbelt.

Out of approximately 380,000 drivers involved in collisions in 2006, about one in 17 failed to remain at the scene of a collision.

Running a red light is the cause of about 25 per cent of fatal collisions at municipal intersections with traffic signals.

In general, traffic offences fines go to municipalities.



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