

No sex, but plenty of controversy, mistrust, emotion, accusations, entrenchment, fractious misunderstanding, North vs. South, farmer vs. suit, urban vs. rural, Halton Hills vs. Oakville. Sounds like the perfect ingredients to a new book or movie. It was actually a description of the Regional Official Plan Amendment (R.O.P.A.) 38 councillor debates. This is the Region of Halton's response to the Province's "Places to Grow" plan which legislates Halton Region to almost double its population in size to 780,000 by 2031. There was a time during the debates where I wondered if Halton Hills even belongs in the Region of Halton. We don't want to be big like Milton is going to be (235,000), Oakville and Burlington. We want to preserve agriculture and our Natural Heritage System on lands earmarked for development. Councillor Jane Fogal, Clark Somerville and myself kept to our guns. At the end of the day, the Halton

Mayor's Corner

By Rick Bonnette



Hills council position was kept in tact and adopted unanimously by Regional Council. Harmony in the Region was restored. R.O.P.A. 38 will plan the Region to 2031. As Councillor Somerville stated, "I hope the Province isn't planning another growth plan for 2041."

How many of you came out to enjoy the Olympic Torch relay on December 19th? Halton Hills was the place to be! The torch relay started in Norval, then Georgetown and wound up in Acton. It was a historic moment as we may never see anything like it again. The last Olympics awarded

to Canada was over 20 years ago. Canadian pride was everywhere from the thousands who witnessed the torch run. There were spontaneous choruses of "O Canada". It was an

emotional experience for many as I witnessed tears of joy, hugging and even couples kissing. It was real genuine Canadian pride. Sometimes we just don't do enough of it. A

big thank you to Frank Prospero from the Town of Halton Hills. Frank, along with Town staff coordinated the many events held that day. We had many volunteers who

were our Ambassadors for this special day as well as business and local sporting groups to make this event a huge success. A lot of work went on behind the scenes to make it all happen. The police were excellent. Congratulations to our local torch carriers. You did the Town proud. It really was a chance to showcase Halton Hills and we sure did!

Keep it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342, or by e-mail at mayor@haltonhills.ca.

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Player of the Week!
AYDEN "PIP" CLARE
Ayden is 6 years old, plays forward, shoots left and has 7 goals and 4 assists. Ayden's favourite player is Mats Sundin. He loves the San Jose Sharks.