

# Province should pay for growth costs

Halton Hills Council wants the province to pay for any preparation or planning appeals arising out of challenges of municipal decisions required because of the Places to Grow legislation. The Town also wants Queen's Park to provide intervenor funding for any municipalities who get involved in any appeal proceeding relating to the Growth Plan Conformity Exercises.

Defending any Regional or Town Official Plan decision made to conform to the Places to Grow legislation at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) could be long and costly, and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette thinks the province should pick up the tab.

At a recent meeting, he received Council support for a Notice of Motion asking the province to cov-

er the costs of defending the Growth Conformity Exercise including the cost of hiring lawyers, planning consultants and other consultants and witnesses, along with Town/Region staff time required to mount a defence.

Noting that he said the Places to Grow legislation "scared" him when it was released approximately five years ago, Bonnette told councillors last Monday that he now says, "if you say, you have to pay."

"Because, quite frankly, you've heard it here, it's no secret, we've had developers sitting right in this council chambers... and they pretty well told us they were going to appeal our decisions at the OMB and this really ticks me off," Bonnette said, adding it is a provincial initiative that said Halton

must grow from 400,000 to 780,000 people, and there was a deadline for a Conformity Plan that can now be challenged.

Listing all of the roads, arenas and other services that Halton Hills needs, Bonnette said the Town is not "a rich community" and that it is "wasteful" that it is expected to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars and when they must defend their decisions at the OMB and lawyers get rich at the expense of Halton Hills taxpayers.

Bonnette said the potential costs of defending growth decisions forced by the province could "hamstring" the town and other Ontario municipalities.

The Notice of Motion will be sent to the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, all Ontario Party leaders and all Ontario municipalities.



**TEA AT THE MANOR:** Mary Aitken enjoyed a stroll in the lush gardens at the Tea in the Manor celebrations in Limehouse last Saturday afternoon. Funds raised at the tea, fashion show and silent auction were donated to Halton Hills United Way. —Denise Paulsen photo

## Mayor's Corner

By Rick Bonnette



Many of you know that I have not been a fan of the "Places to Grow" legislation and I have written about this many times in this column. This is the legislation where the Province has mandated Halton Region to almost double our population from 400,000 to 780,000 by 2031. Halton Hills has accepted a modest increase of 20,000 with Milton taking the bulk of the growth. Now there are other developers pushing to add an extra 40,000 to Halton Hills. The financial impact to municipalities from this legislation has already been significant and the OMB costs will be staggering as developers will be challenging the municipalities and the Region on our decision. The lawyer and the consultants will get rich on this one.

Last council meeting, your Council approved a motion put forward by

myself requesting that the Province of Ontario cover all appeal costs to the OMB for this Growth Plan Conformity Exercise. After all, these projected astronomical legal and consulting costs will be born by our present taxpayers based on the Provinces initiatives.

\*\*\*\*

July 19th at 2:30 pm will be the official opening of the Superior Glove Splash Pad in Acton at Prospect Park. The splash pad features a truly unique fish theme. This will be a real benefit to Prospect Park as a community destination. Please join me and your Councillors.

\*\*\*\*

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard on putting on a great Canada Day. The Glen, as always takes centre stage on Canada Day with many activities throughout the day. Prospect Park in Acton was also a bee hive of activity with the Everyone Dance Club, musical entertainment and it was followed by the traditional Acton Firefighters Associ-

ation putting on a fantastic fireworks display. While most of us enjoyed the activities I give full accolades to all of the volunteers who assisted in making Canada Day special for all of us.

Speaking of volunteers, I would like to congratulate Eva Murdock on being selected as Glen Williams Citizen of the Year.

\*\*\*\*

Six more soccer fields are well under way at Trafalgar Sports Park thanks to Georgetown Soccer Club and Canada's Economic Action Plan and Ontario Infrastructure Funding. Construction is well under way with completion set for the fall 2010. Watch for further details in the Spring of 2011.

\*\*\*\*

Congratulations to Salon Pure Environment on their grand opening on Guelph Street in Georgetown.

\*\*\*\*

Keeping it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342, or by email at mayor@haltonhills.ca or you can read my blog at www.rickbonnette.blogspot.com

# Hup, Holland, Hup

"We've got our orange on." That's the sentiment of many Dutch people in the Acton area, excited as they face the prospect of the Dutch soccer team winning the world title

in Sunday's FIFA final in South Africa.

"The excitement is phenomenal and we are so pumped," said Caroline Tolkamp, owner of the Holland Shop in Ac-

ton, the unofficial HQ for the Netherlands team that downed Uruguay 3-2 to advance to the final against the winner of Wednesday's match between Germany and Spain.

Tolkamp said the best selling Dutch souvenirs include 12 styles of orange shirts, key chains, necklaces, bracelets, horns and car flags, which have sold out several times.



## 2010 Golf Tournament





Sign up early, don't miss this great event!

Fabulous Prizes including a \$20,000 Cash Hole-in-One prize! Awards, Contests, Silent Auction, 50/50 Draw and more!

Saturday, August 28, 2010  
1:30 PM Shotgun Start  
Eagle Ridge Golf Club - RR#4 11742 Tenth Line, Georgetown, ON L7G 2L7

Golf & Dinner: \$185 Golf Only: \$145 Dinner Only Tickets available.  
More information at [www.uppercredit.com](http://www.uppercredit.com)

For registration or sponsorship information, please contact Justine at [uppercreditevents@gmail.com](mailto:uppercreditevents@gmail.com) or by phone at 905-609-1047.

## Acton Denture Clinic

Tracy Mitchell DD

- Full & Partial Dentures
- Precision BPS® & Implant Retained Dentures
- Same Day Service for Repairs & Relines



The denture that fits their lifestyle. Present, Past & Future



**130 Mill St. E. Unit 103 Acton**

**519-853-0079**

NOW PICKING

# RASPBERRYS

Also available: Peas-Romaine-Beets-Rhubarb-Cabbages-Dill

PICK YOUR OWN AT "THE FARM" - De Paoli

Ready Picked Available (Please Call Ahead)

southwest of Georgetown-1km west of Trafalgar Rd. on 15 Sideroad, Stewarttown. First farm on north side of road

The Farm 873-2050 • 877-7976 (home)

Mon-Fri 8-5 • Sat 8-2, • Sun & Holidays 8-12