

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Niblock

## Who will pay for growth cost battles?

If the province doesn't agree to help defray the costs for municipalities to defend development decisions at the OMB – usually costly and long battles – taxpayers will have to foot the bill.

Ontario municipalities will undoubtedly face challenges by unhappy developers at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), arising from their plans to conform with the provincial Places to grow legislation.

The Places to Grow legislation dictates that Halton Hills must grow by 20,000 people by 2031, and already developers are pushing to double that to 40,000. Developers have also already warned Town Council that if the planning decisions don't go their way – they will take the Town to the OMB. Halton must grow to 780,000 from 400,000, and potentially faces the same fights at the OMB.

So, the Town wants the province to agree to provide funds to defend the Town and Regional growth conformity plans, including the cost of hiring lawyers, planning consultants and witnesses, along with Town/Region staff time to prepare a defence.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said there have already been significant financial impacts to municipalities from the Places to Grow legislation, and the OMB costs could be "staggering" if the Town's and Region's planning decisions are challenged.

The Town's request to the province to pick up the tab to defend planning decisions at the OMB has been sent to all municipalities in Ontario and to all the pertinent officials – let's hope they listen or taxpayers will have to foot the bill and only the lawyers and developers' planners will get rich.



**COOL AND REFRESHING**  
Anna Golden (right) was the first purveyor of lemonade, a tasty and somewhat nostalgic treat, with the assistance of Emily Cunningham (left), at the Thursday Farmers Market on Willow St. Each week a youth from Acton will be chosen to man the lemonade stand and see what profit they can earn.

- Ken Baker photo

## Telemarketers make good entertainment

Since being off work with Little J there is one thing I am really starting to detest. I love my time with her however; I had no idea how many times a week the phone rings and it is telemarketers.

When I was working and telemarketers called, the gals always directed the calls to me. I think they did it because the way I handled them was their daily amusement. There is one, a man looking for the "guy" in charge who, coincidentally, has a case of light bulbs on hold as per our apparent conversation months ago. When they found out the "guy" was me, a woman, they usually hang up. At one point being so annoyed, I wrote down the company name, googled it and called them asking to speak to a manager. I was more annoyed that they hung up on me, being a woman, than by the telemarketer call.

We would also get calls looking for advertisers for their child safety book distributed to all the medical centres in our town. Notice the word all. When I asked them to tell me which ones and they couldn't, I told them that was because we only had ONE.

Yet, I learned, we used to get these annoying calls at home at night but it's nothing like what we get during the day. I swear there isn't a single day that goes by that a telemarketer doesn't call. I'm wondering if they call during the



By **Angela Tyler**

day so they get the "wife" hoping she buys or decides something impulsively before the "husband" gets home. It's old school thinking but this is the only reason, I can think of, why we get so many calls during the daytime hours.

Of course we all get the guys wanting to give quotes on replacing doors and windows. After all, those calls are a dime a dozen. A few weeks ago I had a guy calling wanting to clean out ducts. After his short pitch he asked me if I wanted a quote. Now at first I had to give him credit because he asked if I wanted a quote, he didn't just assume. This is rare for a telemarketer. They usually assume and start asking all your information like where you live, etc. If they don't ask, I instantly tell them they didn't ask...they assumed. This usually throws them for a loop so badly they hang up on me, which was a good thing those times.

When I finally told him "no, if we wanted our ducts cleaned we would use a local company," he asked me what I meant. "You know...local...companies from our town," I informed him.

"Well, we are local," he replied. After I explained several times over a lengthy period that Toronto is not local for me we finally ended our call.

Just after the duct guy, I had a guy calling to inform me I won a prize. Again, we all get these calls however; this one almost had me believing it. They were very convincing. That was until I told them to ship me out my prize. Of course, they couldn't do it. I had to claim it. When I told them I couldn't get there and reiterated for them to ship it out they offered to pick me up. I told them if they could pick me up, they might as well just bring the prize. Another telemarketer phone list I'm sure I was taken off.

Or how about the people that want to ship you frozen beef... now that's a good one. "I prefer to shop at the local grocery store," I tell them. Ohhhh but they are local, they claim, and soon realize they aren't. "We have much better prices," they offer in response. "Well, you might, but shopping local keeps my neighbours employed," I remind them.

I suppose I could just call that "do-not call" registry to get off the telemarketer lists, but if I do, then I'll be out of practice for when I go back to work. Then who would entertain the gals in the office?

## Looking Back

### Ten Years Ago

• Limehouse resident Stacey Hurley-Arbeiter returned to playing tennis for fun and wound up winning the Ontario tennis over 35 Doubles Championship.

• An explosive device didn't cause any damage, but startled neighbours and left police looking for a culprit after the smoking remains of a "homemade hand grenade" was set off in the middle of Lasby Lane.

• Lorna Thompson was selected as Acton's latest Community Champion. Known as a big-hearted woman, she was praised for stopping to help and staying with a

motorist who slid into a ditch.

### Five Years Ago

• A dead crow found in Burlington tested positive for West Nile Virus, the first found in Halton this year.

• Halton School Board Trustee Ethel Gardiner is heartened that Education Minister Gerald Kennedy is paying attention to unrest within the Halton Board, dissent that prompted the director of education to abruptly resign.

• Local restaurants are asked to comment on Halton's plans to expand the anti-dirty dining "Dinewise" program to make it mandatory.



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