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The satisfaction of achieving a goal

Comment

by Michelle Minnoch

I believe everyone has something they are looking to achieve. Whether it be a career, getting married, starting a family, losing weight or making amends, we all have a goal within ourselves that we would at some point in our lives, like to meet.

When I was 16 years old, I picked my goal, and that was to travel to Africa and see the Wildebeest migration. Africa was a place I had fallen in love with on a movie screen, and the thought of travelling there was something I said I would do before I was 30.

Only a year behind my goal, I spent two weeks travelling Kenya and Tanzania on safari. It was absolutely fantastic!

Many people, friends, family, my travel agent, told me that this would be a trip of a lifetime. They said it would be life changing and bigger than I could have ever imagined.

Boy, were they right.

I was witness to animals I had seen in National Geographic (and The Lion King). I became engrossed in their everyday activities, taking in the wonder of a far away land. I saw

landscapes of endless plains, trees and vegetation I had never heard of or seen before, beautifully brightly coloured birds, and I met some amazing people that call that continent home.

Driving from game park to game park, all the children we passed waved their hands frantically at us, sometimes giving the thumbs up. I was amazed that while travelling through these towns, some poor and dilapidated, there were many, many schools, catering to the primary and high school grades.

My driver informed me that education is top priority for the children.

I was also amazed that the main form of travel for these villagers was the bicycle. While we would be the only car on the main road for

many kilometres, we would pass a great number of Africans on bikes. They would be carrying bags of water, groceries, or bundles of wood on their main mode of transportation. For every fifty bicycles we passed, we passed at least two bicycle repair shops.

And, as seen in many photos, I watched in amazement the women (and girls) walk endlessly with plates of fruit or jugs of water on their heads, not spilling a drop.

The tourism these African countries experience from people like me is what helps keep the game parks going, the economy alive, with many, many people employed.

An experience I will never forget - absolutely. A trip of a lifetime - no doubt about it.

I have realized a dream, one I have held for half of my life, and the satisfaction of achieving it is unbelievable to me.

It's a great feeling to accomplish a goal you set for yourself and achieve yourself.

Africa. I went. I saw. I definitely conquered. (and I still can't believe it!)

LSRCA works closely with municipalities

Dear editor,

On August 30th, an editorial comment appeared in the Innisfil Scope. It was an overview of some aspects of the Intergovernmental Action Plan (IGAP) that seem to be the subject of recent controversy and it referred to a resolution from the Board of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority regarding this matter. The editorial stated that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority is in direct opposition to some municipalities.

In fact, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority does not oppose municipalities. We work closely with municipalities across the watershed - important partners who share very worthwhile environmental projects.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation

Authority works alongside with municipalities and other partners to promote a healthy watershed. Our work includes monitoring phosphorus levels and advocating a long range reduction of phosphorus in the lake in order to improve water quality and self sustaining cold water fishery. Phosphorus loading targets were adopted back in Phase 1 of the Intergovernmental Action Plan in 2005 and have also been an integral part of the work of the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS) since 1990.

Recently, consultants presented a report on Phase 3 of IGAP with recommendations that included eight growth management options. We have reviewed the report, and at the August meeting of the LSRCA Board, our Directors took

a strong position against all of these options because none of them is comparable with the phosphorus targets established and accepted through LSEMS and IGAP Phase 1. We sent you a copy of our resolution last week.

The Conservation Authority supports sustainable growth that conforms to the phosphorus targets of LSEMS and IGAP Phase 1. What we do oppose is development that is not sustainable or that has significant detrimental impacts on the lake and the watershed.

We hope it is clear that we value a cooperative relationship with our municipal partners while we support sustainable growth within the watershed.

Roy Bridge,
Chair, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Not happy with Cookstown by-pass proposal

Dear editor,

Three years ago, my husband and I purchased some acreage from my parents that was part of my grandparent's old farm just east of Cookstown on Highway 89. We built our dream home and have plans to raise our family and retire here.

We realized when we made this decision that highway 89 would have to expand and that a by-pass would have to be created to ease the congestion through Cookstown.

However, nothing could have prepared us for the shock when we attended the Public Information Session in Cookstown regarding the by-pass proposal on September 14.

Two of the proposed by-passes could affect our family property. The proposals suggest building a new road around Cookstown. The northern proposal would cut through our property or our surrounding neighbours'. The southern proposal could cut through my parent's property. This proposed new road would essential destroy these and many more agricultural properties.

It is equally disturbing that none of the already established municipal roads are even being considered as an alternate option. It would seem logical that widening and improving a pre-existing road would be more cost-efficient than expropriating land from local farmers and building

a brand new road. When did it become okay to destroy farm land?

I was stupefied that the zoning maps and the environmental maps that were shown were not accurate. When we pointed the errors out to the representatives from the MTO and consulting agency, they both put the blame on the township (Innisfil) for giving them inaccurate maps.

Our property and others in the area were partially zoned OSC2 in 1984 and that did not appear on their maps.

How can the public genuinely understand the impact of a proposal if the information they are being shown is false?

It is important that the residents

of Innisfil and surrounding communities realize that this by-pass proposal involves losing land that is zoned agricultural and open space conservation.

This is the stage in this study that the citizens and municipal government need to express to the province that this is not an acceptable solution. There have only been two information sessions about regarding this proposal.

Please make your concerns known now to:

Mr. Mike Bricks
Ecoplans Ltd.
mbricks@ecoplans.com
A very concerned resident,
Sonia (Vernon) Prim

Roads should be made a priority

Dear editor,

The residents of Westmount Ave., Mountbatten Ave., St. Paul's Rd., and Linden St., would ask the Town of Innisfil to fix the roads they drive on everyday!!

Presently these roads are bumpy and hazardous to pedestrians, vehicles, cyclists, walkers and the public.

The problem has been getting worse for years, the repairs undertaken to date, amount to patching the road only as a temporary measure. Residents are

hopping mad no action has been taken and some feel ignored. "We pay taxes too"; was a frequent comment.

Many residents I spoke with have had to fork over hundreds of dollars for repairs to their cars, which include tire and rim repairs and front end work. This, they feel, is attributable to the roads mentioned. 100% of those interviewed signed a petition, some comments were: "Destructive; Town should be ashamed of roads; Dangerous; Terrible" etc.

As a frequent user myself I can only agree.

I am requesting Council consider these roads a priority and implement a solution immediately. I would request to meet with council to discuss the issue, a deputation request has been submitted.

Ken Simpson,
Innisfil

Ken Simpson holds up a copy of the petition signed for road improvements.

submitted photo

