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Plan submitted for development of former Mann property on Queen Street

By: Harry Rudolfs

An application for development of the property at 284 Queen Street in Acton has been submitted to the planning department. The plan calls for the construction of 16 “bungalow” townhomes on the L-shaped site, including a private laneway that would connect to Queen Street and Longfield Road.

Town Planner Keith Hamilton said that a bungalow is a fairly new concept that incorporates a dormer or loft area above a bungalow type of building. “We’re waiting for comments internally, from our department and others,” said Hamilton. “We haven’t set a time for a public meeting but that will happen fast, probably in June or July.”

The Mann house—once owned by Hugh Mann, father of railway tycoon Sir Donald Mann—is one of the oldest buildings in Acton and can be traced back to 1851. The house, along with a former shoe factory located in the back of the property, will have to be demolished to make way for the new units. A zoning by-law amendment will have to be made to allow for the increase in density on the site.

Hamilton added that the process is just in the beginning stages. “A zoning amendment can take six months to a year. Don’t expect to see any shovels in the ground this summer.”



Acton's latest BIA Manager resigns

**Town Economic
Development Officer to
assist in interim**

By: Harry Rudolfs

BIA manager Dianne Gowland’s sudden resignation last week came at an awkward time for the organization. The non-profit business association was said to be on the threshold of unveiling its new logo and website, and the Canada

Day celebrations and the Leathertown Festival are only weeks away.

BIA chair Dana Selby issued a press release on Friday stating that “It’s business as usual,” and that Economic Development Officer Cassandra Baccardax has been appointed by the Town of Halton Hills “to provide assistance while recruitment efforts proceed.”

Selby further clarified the situation via email. “Dianne Gowland handed in her resignation, providing four weeks of notice to the Board on May 8. Her resignation came as a surprise and from a business perspective, it was decided by

the Board to expedite Dianne’s resignation and pay her for her four weeks and to relieve her of all BIA responsibilities as of May 11.”

The Acton BIA has had four managers in the last three years, and Gowland had only been on the job since January. She refused to comment on the circumstances of her sudden departure, except to say that “I loved this job very much, and I’m very sad it didn’t work out.”

“It is what it is,” said Councillor Mike Albano, the Town’s representative on the BIA. “It’s the nature of the business—people come and go.”

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