

Area part-time farmer challenges Halton official plan's definitions

A challenge to Halton's definition of bonafide farmer is coming from a part-time farmer and the stakes are new lots.

Edward Lanik, Ninth Line, is appealing a Land Division Committee (LDC) denial of his separation application. Lanik is a part-time farmer who wants to give his daughter a wedding present of land; land he hoped to split off from his holdings.

Committee turned down the Lanik application because it would add to a line of houses on the Ninth Line. A line of houses is called strip development, which is something LDC discourages. Also the

proposed use of the new lot would have been residential, not agricultural.

However, as LDC member Joe Willmott pointed out during the committee's Halton Hills meeting November 6, if Lanik was a bonafide farmer the separation would be granted. A farmer can get a retirement lot if he's been an active farmer for 10 years, Lanik acquired his land in 1967.

A bonafide farmer, according to the definition in Halton Region's official plan "a person who owns, whose principal occupation is the operation of, and whose principal income

is from, a commercial farm in Halton. For the purpose of this definition, principal income will not include investment income."

Lanik agreed at the meeting he is not a full time farmer. He said he sells an animal now and then plus enough money to pay taxes. His main occupation is commercial architecture.

Halton Hills planning department classes the Lanik land as rural. The region's planner and the Niagara Escarpment Commission opposed granting the severance. Lanik's property is the east half of Lot 30, Concession 9.

The Lanik application

opened up the question regarding what is a bonafide farmer in Halton and the other question on the practicality of the definition.

LDC member Pam Sheldon, Speyside, termed the official plan definition as ambiguous. "We still have many excellent farmers, however, I really think farming is changing. There is the part-time, the hobby-farmer. What they are doing is keeping land in agriculture."

Speaking of the Lanik application, Mrs. Sheldon said, "Whether he is making all his money off it is not important. They are keeping land in agricultural use."

A neighbor of the

Lanik's, R.H. Stevens, appeared at the LDC meeting to back up the application. The Department of Agriculture in Milton says 80 per cent of the farmers in Halton are part-timers according to Stevens. "Part-time farming is Halton County. I know very few bonafide farmers," he said.

Two severances were granted to the nearby Martin farm, according to Stevens, as well as a neighboring application for a lot 200 feet wide by 2,000 feet deep.

Stevens and Lanik pointed out what they considered poor use of land by a neighbor

Manor. Though the 140-acre Milne property was bought outright, with no separation needed, the pair seem to think the contrast between Lanik's application and the Milne land use demonstrated an injustice.

Stevens indicated it was remarkable to him that what he called a commercial operation, with horses, buildings, parking and overnight holding is turned down. An LDC member commented the Milne property use is recreational, an activity allowed under the official plan.

Lanik indicated the

decisions were inconsistent. "It's people like me and Mr. Stevens who are conserving the land," he said. "Not like the neighbor across the road who has a commercial operation. She is using the land and ruining the land."

Twice LDC chairman Brian Fletcher directed Lanik's objections to higher authorities. "Your arguments lie with those who make the official plan."

"I don't understand the restrictions," Lanik replied.

"If we grant this severance, we'll have six more farms in here," LDC member Lloyd Chisholm said.

On the Leavell

With Helen

The stories of the Mississauga train derailment and mass evacuation will be heard for years. After all, there are 250,000 tales to be told. Many in Acton also have their stories, although some are too modest to tell.

The following people volunteered to help at the International Centre, Milton, through the Red Cross. T. Jens Laustsen, John Bailey, Ken Chappel, Alice Schreiber and Geraldine Lewis. Bruce Haywood was organizer.

In the wake of the disaster, Halton Regional Police were called to the scene to help evacuate, and patrol the empty streets, leaving a skeleton staff to

tend to duties here. Local constables who did not go to Mississauga worked round the clock in Acton to assure police protection. Many worked two shifts, worked through vacations and days off. All the unsung heroes must be mentioned and thanked for doing their bit.

Ever wonder what the green X's are on various trees around town? Unfortunately these trees have been stricken with one disease or another and are slated to be chopped down by the town of Halton Hills.

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There's gold in that garbage

By Jim Robinson
There is a definite commercial market for part of Halton's garbage production, according to preliminary report prepared by Kilborn Limited for the Region of Halton.

St. Lawrence Cement of Mississauga and the Ontario Paper Company of Thorold have already expressed interest in using combustible waste from Halton's landfill site to augment boilers as a fuel source.

The cement firm, in fact, is prepared to take all the fuel fraction Halton can produce right up to the year 2,000 and beyond. The waste, basically paper, would be used to bring kilns up to the 3,000 degree Fahrenheit needed to produce cement.

The paper firm is prepared to take 2,500 tons of solid waste per day to aid steam production in the paper mill.

The regional Solid Waste Management System Study was authorized earlier this

year when councillors became concerned at the lack of available landfill sites and the problems of finding enough agricultural land for sludge disposal.

The region went on record as supporting the concept of resource recovery and this was followed by the hiring of Kilborn Limited to prepare a master plan on what the region is to do with mounting garbage as the Halton population climbs past the 400,000 mark in the year 2001.

The consultants have found, however, that a number of reports the region has received in the past contained a number of "inconsistencies" which must now be resolved.

"Since the quantities of waste, its characteristics and population estimates form the basis of much of the investigation, it is critical that such information be as accurate as possible," the report states.

Due to the "marked

increase" in waste generation in North America during the 70's, the consultants assume source separation (taking out items which can be recycled) will form a part of the region's waste recovery program.

Kilborn predicts 60 per cent of the newprint will be recoverable by 1986 and 30 per cent of the ferrous metals will be recovered by 2001.

"By 1983 approximately 13,500 to 13,800 tons of newprint will be recovered."

"This will amount to a gross value of \$405,000 to \$414,000," the report states.

By the year 2001, the firm predicts Halton will be able to recover 5,350 to 5,920 tons of metal; 6,690 to 7,400 tons of glass; and 20,234 to 23,395 tons of newprint.

That would bring, based on current market values, a total gross revenue of between \$950,000 and \$1,100,000 yearly to the regional treasury.



Grenville (Tim) Masales, Elgin St., is the first winner of the Acton Merchants' Christmas Draw. Mr. Masales was presented with a \$25 voucher by Chamber of Commerce retail section chairman Paul Nielsen. "It's the first time I ever won anything. I feel quite tickled," Mr. Masales said.

Planning Bd. critical of proposed pits

Halton Hills planning board is critical of sections of the proposed revisions to the Pits and Quarries Control Act, known in The Provincial House as Bill 127.

One clause would see the new Pits and Quarries Act overrule regional and local Official Plans as well as Niagara Escarpment Commission plans.

Planning board contends the Official Plan and Zoning bylaw should permit the use before the Pits and Quarries Act applies.

Planning board also endorsed a resolution from Waterloo urging the time for comment on the proposed amendment be upped from 45 days to 60

days, and also urged any further changes in future to be made to the Act should also have 60 days notice before implementation.

Councillor Russ Miller termed the proposed Act "dictatorship".

Planner Mario Venditti said it meant the municipality would have no control and would not even be able to put a site plan on the property.

Planning board also decided the six cent per tonne fee suggested in the proposed amendment was not enough, and suggested a higher fee tied to a cost index.

Planning board found some things favorable in the new Act and were generally in agreement with most, particularly the rehabilitation fund for abandoned pits and quarries.

Rev. Beaton edits book

In a effort to preserve his father's past, for his children, Rev. Chuck Beaton of Trinity United Church, Acton, is in the midst of publishing a book about Horace Beaton's adventures and mis-adventures sailing the Great Lakes.

For 44 years, the senior Beaton sailed the lakes with Canada Steamship Lines, many times being

captain of brand new ships coming out of Collingwood shipyards. He sailed for 46 years altogether, and his tales are recorded in "From the Wheelhouse".

Rev. Beaton had originally intended to write the book himself but after an attempt to get his father to tell his tales into a tape recorder failed, it was decided it

would be best if the former sailor wrote everything out by hand.

Conversations with the publisher, Boston Mills Press in Cheltenham, resulted in the book being a personal account, by Mr. Beaton, and edited by Rev. Beaton, who also wrote a preface and epilogue.

The book has already had several delays in the printing, but should definitely be off the presses this, or next week. Acton residents will have a chance to meet the author, and editor at a party at Trinity United Church.

It was Free Press writer Jennifer Barr who urged Rev. Beaton to get some of his father's stories down in print.

A grant of \$400 from the Ontario Arts Council helped the two Beatons with out-of-pocket expenses.

The elder Beaton is 76

Hostel has meeting

All members of the building, funding and public relations committees of the Halton's Women's Place will be meeting Thursday night, (tomorrow) at 8 p.m. in the proposed hostel, 48 Hugh St., Milton. Anyone wishing to serve on any of the above committees is welcome to attend.

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Farmers are compensated

A wolf attack on a lamb belonging to a local farmer qualifies him for compensation under new provincial regulations.

Halton Agricultural Representative Henry Stanley said Doug Gardhouse, whose farm on Fourth Line near Five Sideroad was the scene of the attack on a lamb, shot the wolf.

Under new regulations announced by Lorne Henderson, Minister of Agriculture, the compensation for a lamb killed by a predator has been increased from \$100 to \$200.

"It's higher than before," said Mr. Stanley, "but it's still only a fraction of the value of that animal to a farmer. It's possible it could be sold for more than that."

"And if it's breeding stock, it's not replaceable at all. All that genetic lineage is gone."

"A farmer may have spent years trying to get the right sire and dame combination."

"We have to have more control of running loose dogs in Halton, and in the case of coyotes, trapping is the answer."

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