



Acton firefighters rushed to the scene of the first line barn fire Thursday evening. A barn was gutted and a nearby shed damaged.

Barn fire snuffs fowl

Flames claimed a number of fowl, a snowmobile and an amount of hay and alfalfa during a barn fire on the First Line Thursday evening.

Acton firefighters were on the scene for about two hours on Lot 29, south of Highway 7. The tanker truck from Georgetown was also called to the scene to keep the Acton trucks supplied with water, according to Fire Chief Mick Holmes.

Flames broke out at about 7 p.m. Because flames broke out again at midnight, a truck and some firefighters had to return.

The small barn, containing the hay, was gutted. A 1974 snowmobile and trailer were charred and Halton Regional Police say five geese died in the flames.

Holmes reported that there has not been a damage figure set for the fire. The building, however, was not insured, he said. No cause for the blaze has been determined either.

The hay belonged to Oscar Broughton, according to the fire department. The occupant of the farm is David Newlands. The property is owned by Peter Smeckious of Toronto.

Many people were attracted to the fire because of the large plume of black smoke which could be seen from town. A couple of days afterwards, the drive shed, near the barn, could be seen smoking. Alfalfa was stored in the shed.

Fire Chief Holmes indicated that the direction of the wind, was a factor in sparing the house which was situated not far to the east of the barn.

The wind was mainly from the north. Firefighters had to protect a long trailer which is off to the south of the barn.



The barn filled with hay burned for hours into the evening Thursday. Firefighters were on the scene for about two hours. In addition to the regular trucks from Acton, a tanker truck from Georgetown was called in. The property, on Lot 29, Concession 1, is owned by Peter Smeckious of Toronto. The tenant is David Newlands. Firefighters had to return to the scene at midnight because flames broke out again. Photos by ERIC ELSTONE

Reed says

Aid for seniors "phony"

The much ballyhooed help for senior citizens contained in the recent Tory provincial budget is really a "phony concoction" according to Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed.

Reed said in a recent interview he and his Liberal colleagues in the Official Opposition were impressed with increased aid for seniors unveiled last month by the government but aren't after giving the

proposals more careful examination.

He says what was said to be a \$500 grant will really amount to just \$50 for most senior citizens.

"It takes money out of tax credits and puts it into the form of a tax credit with Miller's (Ontario Treasurer Frank Miller) name on it."

Over 200,000 senior citizens will receive less from the province than they are now, Reed reported.

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Len Tuitman and his wife Elly admire the colorful flowers at his garden and landscaping centre on Highway 25. Tuitman says gardeners should plant their flowers this weekend. Tuitman says although gardening is an eight-month affair, the unofficial planting day is Saturday. Flowers planted now will last all summer if you care for them properly. For a few tips on gardening, read on. Photo by DIANA WALTMAN.

A green thumb's complete guide Gardeners-start your planting

by Diana Waltmann

Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?

With nitrogen and phosphates, potash and manure planted all by hoe.

In spring a young man's fancy turns to bikinis, but most of us are thinking about the overgrown jungle in our backyards called a garden.

Gardening is an eight-months affair, says Len Tuitman of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping. There is a lot of preparatory work before the actual flowers and seeds should be planted.

For instance, he says you should roll your lawn right after the frost is out of the ground. That does not actually level the lawn, but pushes grass roots back in the ground.

Then fertilize the lawn with "25-5", a combination of nitrogen potash and phosphate. The nitrogen is the growing agent and also gives the grass and the plants deeper color. The potash and phosphates strengthen the plants.

A lawn should be clean, free of leaves and branches, adds Mr. Tuitman.

Prune Roses

By mid April, the flower beds should be cleaned. Mr. Tuitman said if you have roses, to take the soil away from the stems, and prune them.

By the first of May you can start working on your vegetable garden, by planting seeds that won't be damaged by night frost. Peas are a good example.

Also the grass should be cut for the first time. Mr. Tuitman says the cuttings don't necessarily have to be raked as long as the grass isn't too long.

Now you are ready to plant your annuals. The rule of the thumb says Mrs. Ingrid Schubert of White Oaks Landscaping, is to plant during the long weekend in May.

But since that holiday falls early in the month this year, she said it would be a good idea to plant around May 24.

"You're pretty safe at the end of May, although up here on the escarpment, you never know."

What to plant? Well, there's a wide variety of flowers in splashes of brilliant color. Mrs. Schubert says her favorites are petunias and marigolds, which like all annuals, bloom all summer long.

Fly Catcher

Marigolds are especially nice, she added because they keep the insects away. "I grow a few of them in the house to keep out flies and in the garden so I don't have to spray."

Mrs. Schubert starts her plants by growing them indoors for awhile. She says this way she can grow rarer species from special seeds for award-winning flowers.

However the commercially-bought seeds you'll be planting this week will grow just as well.

Mr. Tuitman said people seem to be buying geraniums, petunias, ageratums, lobelias, pansies and begonias.

Begonias, impatiens and coleus are good plants for shadier gardens, he added.

These are the kinds of flowers that bloom only once, for the duration of the summer and must be removed in the fall.

Tulips, daffodils and crocus which bloom year after year will also begin to flower at this time.

After planting, you should fertilize again with 21-3-9. That combination is higher on nitrogen than on the other two ingredients, to make the flowers grow faster and brighter.

Tend Veggies

Vegetable gardens also needs tending to at the end of May.

Mrs. Schubert is in charge of the vegetable garden at Schubert Landscaping and says good soil is extremely important for a vegetable garden.

"You can grow just about anything here, but try to get good top soil and some manure in it too. You should spade it in the fall, although it can be

done in the spring.

"Vegetable seeds are planted at different times. Beans and melons for instance, need 65 degrees (Fahrenheit) to germinate."

Other vegetables like lettuce, cauliflower or cabbage need cooler weather to grow, according to Mr. Tuitman.

Still most vegetables seeds should be planted around the end of May. If they are planted too soon, Mr. Tuitman added, they will die.

The most popular selling vegetable seeds are beans, carrots, corn and peas. You can also grow spinach, radish, lettuce, green and red cabbage, green peppers, potatoes and melons.

Mrs. Schubert said she never has to buy vegetables at the grocery store because everything she needs is in her garden.

Spray Birch

Don't forget your trees and shrubs. Birch trees should be sprayed in June with cygone paint to prevent birch leaf minor - a nasty bug that destroys the leaves.

Trees and shrubs can be planted in the spring as long as they are potted. Bare rooted trees should be planted in the fall, although early spring is not too late as long as they have no leaves. They should also be fertilized in the spring.

By mid-June, gardening is just a matter of upkeep.

Mr. Tuitman advises hoeing your flower beds once a week to cultivate them. Grasses should be cut once a week and if the weather is dry, the lawn should be watered.

A good soaking once or twice a week so the water goes in the ground several inches, is better than a little bit every day says Mr. Tuitman.

Roses need special care. They should be dusted with rose dust once every 10 days to prevent diseases such as black spot and mildew from occurring. If it rains in between dusting, it should be done more often.

If your roses have faded, clip them to just

(Continued on page 5)

Seniors apts. delay again

by Gord Murray

Tenants won't be able to start moving into the new senior citizens' apartments until mid-June or the end of next month.

Three pieces of work remain to be done so inspections of the building have been delayed again and no tentative dates set.

An Gabriel of the Halton Housing Authority says seniors won't be able to move in until two weeks after the building is inspected and taken over from the contractor.

Inspections postponed

Ontario Ministry of Housing Information officer Jean O'Bright said an inspection planned for last Friday was postponed as was the inspection tentatively scheduled for yesterday (Tuesday). She announced last week takeover of the building was to take place yesterday or Thursday, but that has been set back until the inspection takes place.

She reported three pieces of work still must be carried out by the contractor, about one day's work, though it could take longer.

Modifications must be made to some sheet metal work on a gas connection. That connection must then be inspected by gas company officials.

Emergency lighting malfunction

When it was tested recently the emergency, or backup, lighting system failed to work for 30 minutes. That emergency lighting system must be fixed and tested again before the building is inspected.

Lastly a partition must be put up between the storage and mechanical rooms. That partition was to be put up yesterday.

No new inspection date has been set and won't be until the contractor reports all three problems have been remedied and the gas inspection has taken place, Mrs. O'Bright said.

She did say since there isn't a lot of work left to be done the inspection will "hopefully" take place later this week.

Following the provincial inspection Halton Housing Authority will carry out an inspection and then takeover the building shortly after.

Mrs. Gabriel said immediately following the takeover by Halton Housing letters will go out to seniors who have applied to live in the 51 unit apartment complex on Elizabeth Drive.

Caretaker hired

One obstacle has now been removed, a caretaker for the apartment complex has been hired.

The project has been plagued by delays and occupancy dates repeatedly postponed.

First the building was to open at the beginning of March, then the end of March, then mid-April, then early May. Late last month the province and contractor predicted the building would not be ready for occupancy until the end of June or early July.

Last Wednesday a meeting was set up with the contractor and consultants by the Ministry of Housing. Prior to that meeting it was thought people would be able to move in late this month or early in June.

Mid-June earliest

Now it would appear mid-June is the earliest, late June a possibility, for occupancy.

Only if a senior was in an "urgent" situation requiring them to move from their present accommodation would they be allowed to move in sooner than two weeks after the takeover.

Mosquito spraying draws support

Acton residents seem to want a mosquito spraying program this summer.

Christina Houston, Churchill Road North, said in an interview this week eight petitions to support her call for a mosquito spraying program are in circulation now and she has the support of close to 200 residents already.

She will make a presentation to Halton Hills general committee next Monday night, May 26, at 7 p.m. and is hoping residents attend the meeting at the Seventh Line municipal building.

Mrs. Houston said she expects before next Monday petitions will have been circulated in every neighborhood in the community. Petitions are now out in the Bovis, Glenlea, Kingham and Cobblehill areas and ball players who use the fields at Prospect Park, where mosquitoes are bad because of Fairy Lake, are being asked to sign.

Since she started her campaign for a mosquito spraying program Mrs. Houston says she has heard from just one person who is opposed. That woman feared environmental damage from spraying.

Flames gut Erin home

Flames levelled an old house in Erin Township early last night (Tuesday). Acton and Erin Township firefighters extinguished the fire.

The house, owned by Michael Beatty Ltd., of Toronto, was burned to the stone foundations, according to Acton Fire Chief Mick Holmes. Smoke from the fire was seen rising from as far away as Eramosa Township.

It did not appear that anyone lived in the home, said the chief.

Chief Holmes says Hillsburgh's Fire Department will investigate the blaze.

The home appeared to have been undergoing renovations. There was some wood on the property and a house trailer on the site. The home is on what used to be the McEneary farm on the Sixth Line.

Erin Township brought out its tanker and pumper truck plus its van. Acton took the van and a pumper. The fire, according to Chief Holmes, is within Acton's fire territory.

inside

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Acton High School's band is in Edmonton this week. Today's paper has a photo feature on the performers. Turn to page 5.