



Larry Davidson searches for some brick to fit into the kiln wall in an effort to salvage some of the pottery. Fire reduced the kiln's shed to ashes Friday at supertime. Acton Firefighters were on the scene for about an hour. Probable cause in the estimated \$2,500 fire over heating, according to Fire Chief Mick Holmes. A neighbor telephoned firefighters after she heard a loud crack. Chief Holmes said the shed was engulfed in flames by the time firefighters arrived.

Object to truck route

Nine families have objected to the Given Road and Third Line being used as a truck route from a new pit used for provincial highway construction on the Fifth Line.

Monday night Halton Hills council received a letter from Ken McGregor, R.R. 4, Acton, representing his family and eight others objecting to the truck route. He says the truck route

will mean "a great interference with our way of life and our children's safety."

McGregor complains there are three dangerous corners on the planned truck route. He says the Given Road and Fourth Line is a dangerous intersection but it will be upgraded in conjunction with the truck route. However two other dangerous corners won't be considered for

upgrading, Given Road and the Third Line and the blind corner half-way up the hill past the railway tracks.

McGregor noted there are also four other 90 degree corners from the top of the hill to Highway 25.

"We fully realize that gravel pits isolated from major highways will always inconvenience some residents but traffic safety must also be taken into consideration," McGregor declared.

Council received McGregor's letter without comment.

Bear killed. . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Keith and fired at the bear with a powerful 8 mm 98 Mauser rifle, wounding it.

They trailed the animal and Keith finished it off deep in the woods, but not before firing at it several more times. Keith noted he hit the bear's forehead with a shot from his .22 and all it did was growl.

He said he didn't want to kill the bear but if it had been allowed to remain in the area it would have just kept on killing livestock. Bears have also been known to eat calves.

The bear stood on its haunches once to reach for a pear from a tree and it stood about five-and-one-half to six feet tall.

Dr. Ron Trenton, Halton Hills Veterinary Services, who inspected the remains of the bear later, said it weighed in excess of 300 pounds.

He noted bears just came out of hibernation about a month ago and this is the season they carry their lightest weight so the bear would have been much bigger later in the summer. Dr. Trenton estimated from the size of the animal the bear is five or six years old.

Dr. Trenton said bears will eat anything, can cause a lot of problems when they get into garbage, and eat both meat and vegetation. They have big appetites and will eat whatever they can easily obtain. The lamb it killed would have been a delicacy to the bear and it would have kept killing in the area if it hadn't been killed. Dr. Trenton said the area residents had no choice but to kill it. He added the animal appeared to be quite healthy and not rabid.

Dr. Trenton contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources and the province confirmed it is very rare for a bear to be seen this far south. They said there have been only two reports of bears in this part of the province in the last 10 years, and both of the cases were in the Luther Marsh, about 15 miles north of Belwood.

A black bear has been sighted three times in recent weeks in Caledon and Snelgrove OPP have been checking out the reports. Nobody has seen the bear for a while but an OPP spokesman said this past Sunday a bee hive was knocked over in the Albion area of Caledon and police investigated hoping it was done by the bear. A game warden also was on the scene but no bear was found and it couldn't be determined if a bear upset the beehive.

There are no indications the bear seen in Caledon is the same one which was killed near here seven days ago.

News digest

Summer council meets

Halton Hills council won't be meeting as often as usual this summer.

General committee and council meetings will be combined into a single meeting twice in July and twice in August. Also there will be just two planning board meetings this summer. Council will meet July 7, July 22, August 5 and August 18. Planning board will meet July 8 and August 6.

Aid on mortgage rates

Halton Hills council has backed Oshawa's call for the federal and provincial governments to help people struggling with mortgage interest rates.

Council backed the Oshawa request Monday night. The Oshawa resolution calls for Ottawa and Queen's Park to bring in policies to reduce or fix mortgage interest rates at acceptable levels, help low and middle income families to become homeowners by reducing mortgage interest rates in the interim until they drop to acceptable levels and assist small business to cope with interest rates to strengthen the business community and increase employment in construction and associated industries.

Fire calls up

There have been more fires in both Acton and Georgetown areas during the first five months of this year than during the same time period in 1979.

Fire chief Mick Holmes' report to Halton Hills council Monday night showed up to the end of May there have been 52 fires in Acton and area, compared to 35 in the first five months of 1979. There have been 120 fires in the Georgetown area the first five months of 1980. There were 85 during the January to May time period.

While the number of fires is up, damages are down from over \$324,000 to \$205,284.

Bad news for speeders

Whether coming, going, or in motion, Halton Regional Police will be able to catch speeders with their new radar for the Georgetown, Acton area.

The small unit which fits inside a briefcase can record the speed of a vehicle while the cruiser is in motion, according to Staff Sergeant Hansen.

Police thanked for help

Halton Regional Police received a letter of thanks from Mississauga mayor Hazel McCullon for their assistance during what she termed, "the Mississauga Miracle."

Police from across the Region were called in to help November 11 to 16 during the evacuation of the city after the derailment of a train carrying chlorine gas.

L and L wins tender

L and L Ford was one of the car dealers whose bids were accepted for vehicles needed by the Halton Regional Police this year.

L and L was awarded the contract for four station wagons.

Study blind intersection

Councillor Ed Wood wants the engineer to study the Cobblehill Road and Mill Street West intersection to see what can be done about the blind spot.

He made the request as Monday's Halton Hills council meeting held in Acton. Wood asked the study be done in conjunction with the engineer's examination of a resident's request for a stop sign at Cobblehill and Victoria Street to slow speeders.

Staff transfers

Two elementary school vice-principals are heading for twinned schools next year.

Gus Elliott is going to Speyside from Centennial while John Kavanagh transfers to Limehouse from George Kennedy.

Fear the enemy

Fear and ignorance are the worst enemies in the fight against cancer. The local office of the Canadian Cancer Society can give you the facts about cancer.

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52
Numbers

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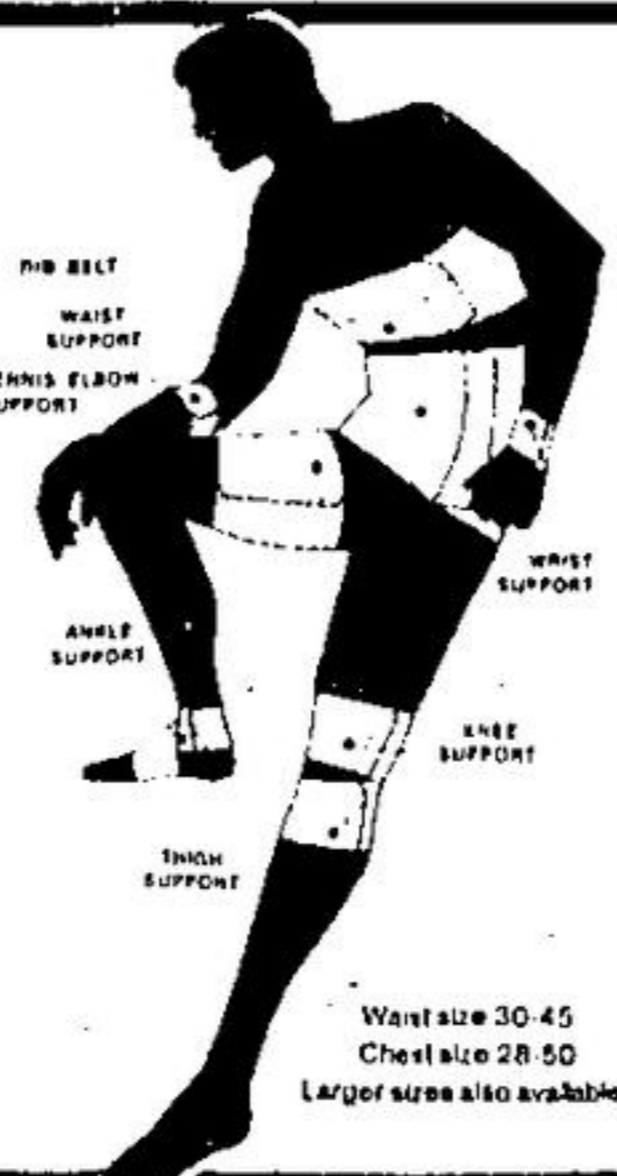
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High assessment angers Bovis

Residents of the Bovis subdivision are up in arms about the soaring taxes they pay and the hefty assessment on their properties, Halton Hills councillors learned Monday night.

Council came to Acton High School for their regular meeting and the Business Improvement Area hosted a two hour public meeting afterwards which about 50 residents attended.

Many of the homeowners were from Bovis and they complained long and loudly about council's slowness to implement market value or equalized property assessment.

Some of the residents identified themselves when they spoke, others didn't. Besides market value assessment, lack of services in comparison with Georgetown, complaints about poor police protection and concern about drugs in schools were also discussed.

Rick Smith, Rosemary Road, got things going by voicing displeasure over both high taxes and the uneven assessment in Acton. He said council shouldn't have rejected market value assessment, noting some homeowners in Bovis pay as much in taxes as ratepayers on other streets combined.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said council looked at market value assessment last year and decided not to implement it. It wasn't implemented again when it was brought up at council recently, but council did agree to set up a committee to review it. He said it will have much greater impact on the town than simply equalizing the assessment between two homes on any given street. Market value assessment has far reaching implications, Richardson explained, adding the committee should start its work this summer.

Another resident said there can be as much as a \$300 annual difference in taxes between two quite similar homes in Acton and residents in Bovis wonder why they have to pay five times as much in taxes as some other homeowners here, yet receive the same services.

One woman asked if council will complete its study and implement market value assessment before everyone in the subdivision is living in old age homes. Richardson said the committee report won't take that long to get to council.

In answer to a question, treasurer Ray King reported the last major

assessment in Acton was in 1960-61, but added it has been updated and reviewed many times since then.

Councillor Harry Levy pointed out assessment is a provincial responsibility. He reported an initial report to the town from the assessment office for Peel and Halton in Mississauga shows assessment for 265 Acton homes would remain the same under market value while 687 would go down and 850 would go up. In Esquevas assessment under market value would leave 363 homes unchanged and 874 would go down and 848 up.

He observed just as many residents want the tax structure left as it is now as want market value and it will help and hurt residents in every ward.

One homeowner from Bovis asked why a single resident of the subdivision may pay as much in taxes as 13 homes combined on another Acton Street. He said it was time for the town to get going and implement market value assessment.

Some people are getting a free ride another homeowner charged and Bill Johnson of Rosemary Road said residents didn't come out to hear reports from council and staff, but to demand action. New residents are paying far in excess of their fair share and people are antagonized, he said. He said Bovis residents want market value assessment investigated much more quickly than it is now being reviewed.

Councillor Ross Knechtel, who pointed out he lives in Bovis and pays high taxes too, said there are many misconceptions about market value assessment. He said as much as he supports market value it is very complex and it

needs to be studied carefully.

Knechtel pointed out the town can switch to market value at only one time annually so even if a decision was made that night to move to market value it couldn't be implemented for this year.

He said a lot of residents' complaints about assessment aren't dealt with by the town because they are in the control of "Big Daddy", the Ontario government.

Before opting for market value assessment the town must find out what it will do to commercial and industrial assessment. The only way to really lower taxes is to bring in more industrial assessment he said, adding he doesn't want to move to a system which will discourage industry from coming to Acton.

The province should be answering more questions but haven't been so the town must study market value itself and that will take time Knechtel declared.

If something isn't done about taxes soon, by the time gas hits \$2 a gallon council will be looking at a "ghost town" for much of Acton, Smith predicted. (Continued on page 6)

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