

News digest

Thief in training school

A 15-year-old Acton youth charged in connection with 26 break-ins and two attempts at Acton and Georgetown homes during November has been sent to a training school after appearing in juvenile court, December 4. From the 14 entries in Acton and the 12 in Georgetown the youth stole cash and jewellery estimated at \$10,000.

Church canopy approved

Knox Presbyterian Church has received approval from Halton Hills Committee of Adjustment for a canopy and entrance steps at the church. Knox Presbyterian needed a minor variance for the canopy and steps. Relief was needed from municipal setback regulations.

Dryer fire

There was about \$20 damage in an electrical clothes dryer fire Saturday afternoon at 122 Kipling Rd. The blaze occurred at 4:56 p.m. Acton Firefighters responded to the call.

Rescue passengers

Acton Firefighters were called to a two vehicle accident Sunday afternoon at 6:04 at Crewsons corners to rescue trapped passengers from a car.

Antiques burn

Most of the antique furniture stored in a garage at the home of Mel Smith, Fourth Line of Nassagaweya, south of 25 Sideroad, was destroyed in a fire Friday afternoon just after 1 p.m. Both Acton and Rockwood firefighters responded to the call.

Bennett speaker

Ontario Minister of Housing Claud Bennett will be the guest speaker at the Acton Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. No firm date has been set as yet for the annual meeting.

BIA wants board members

Acton Business Improvement Area is looking for members for the board of management. There is no limit on the number of people who can sit on the board and the BIA hopes to bring new blood onto the board. The annual BIA meeting will be held in February.

BIA backs by-law

Acton Business Improvement Area's board of management has reviewed the second draft of Halton Hills proposed minimum maintenance and occupancy by-law and informed town staff it is satisfactory. The town needs a minimum maintenance and occupancy by-law before the province will grant funds for downtown studies or refurbishing.

Non-smoking week

The week of January 18 to 25 was proclaimed National Non-Smoking Week in Town by Mayor Pete Pomeroy, Monday night.

The request for the proclamation came from the Halton council of Smoking and Health, who according to town policy, will pay for the publishing of the proclamation if they wish it advertised.

Taxi driver's licence

Monday Halton Hills council authorized the issuance of a temporary taxi driver's licence for Larry Youmans, 98 Crescent St., Acton.

Fourth Line residents fear pit encroachment

Noise of blasting, increased truck traffic and the possible extension of pits into good agricultural land were some of the fears expressed by Fourth Line residents about the extension of the J.C. Duff gravel pit, at a public meeting, Tuesday night.

The 195 acre leased site bounded by the existing Duff pit, the Fifth Line and the Fourth Line, has been worked under a wayside pit permit but must now be rezoned to warrant a regular commercial licence.

Worried about Noise Malcolm McKenzie, a Fourth Line resident, said he was worried about the high noise level from the existing quarry on the Fourth Line, which he claimed reaches 130 decibels when blasting is underway. He urged Ministry of Environment controls. In addition, McKenzie predicted increased truck traffic on the Fourth Line.

Assistant Planner Bruce McLean explained there would be no access on the Fourth Line at all. He said only the Fifth Line would be used. The existing entrance to the Duff pit would be the primary entrance, but if another entrance is used on the Fifth Line to the Brooks' section of the land, J.C. Duff would have to reconstruct that part of the road.

Chairman Mike Armstrong said the blasting referred to would be at the Indusmin Quarry. J.C. (Mac) Duff explained his is a gravel operation which has not used dynamite in the ten years he has operated. He said stone quarries use dynamite. Duff extended invitations to any residents to come and see the operation.

Al McFee, another Fourth Line resident, asked if this operation is on the same site as the present pit.

Duff stated the land lies behind the present pit and pointed out only 70 acres of the 195 acres would be used for gravel, with the rest left as it is. He said the closest the operation would come to the Fourth Line would be approximately 550 feet. He explained part of the 70 acres has been mined previously as a wayside pit.

McFee said the pit seemed to be galloping right ahead and commented, "One more hurdle and it'll be in my backyard." He said he heard the Duenk farm

just along from him, had been mentioned as a gravel source.

Duff said his policy had been to limit sales to the local area, which keeps costs down. He emphasized aggregate is an important asset to the community.

"It may be a liability to some people, but it's an asset to most people in the region. We should be looking for more gravel."

He stressed all the gravel in this area is in the Niagara Escarpment, and pointed out he had

been trying to develop this property for seven years, and only now had the go-ahead to try for a licence.

McFee said he appreciated Duff's statement and realized the gravel is necessary for roads and construction, but said his main concern is for the preservation of farm land. He said in this property he realized there was little farm land, but warned the Duenk property is a productive farm. "I'm worried how far it will

go." Armstrong replied he knew of no proposal on the Duenk farm.

Town Engineer Bob Austin explained the Ministry of Transportation and Communication had approached Duenk for the right to test for gravel for a wayside pit, not a licensed commercial operation.

Planner Mario Venditti said both the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources denied the application.

McFee contended a construction company was on the Duenk farm a week ago sampling gravel. "They told me they'd be taking gravel out of there next summer."

The engineer said no application has been made, and reminded

McFee if an application for a licensed pit is submitted there would have to be a full public meeting, and reports circulated to all agencies. He said that if the application is for a wayside pit then it comes through council.

McFee concluded, "Tonight we are discussing unproductive land, but in a few months we could be discussing a productive farm and a good bush."

The chairman explained all pits have to be rehabilitated, and told the audience anyone could submit objections before December 31. He emphasized no decision would be made that night.

Following the meeting Duff conferred with the residents and explained on a map exactly what is planned.



Santa visits with Robble Huisman, Sarah Shaffer and Tanya Timbers at the Acton Optimist children's Christmas party Sunday afternoon at the Scout Hall.

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Anti-abortion group says MOH 'notorious'

Halton Pro-Life, a group opposed to abortions, told Regional Council it is also opposed to Halton hiring Dr. Peter Cole as its long-sought Medical Officer of Health, on the grounds he is "a notorious" anti-abortion law lobbyist.

Dr. Cole, 35, a physician with City of Toronto's Family Services, was selected by Halton Regional Council last Thursday but only after the Pro-Life members were allowed to state their case against the hiring.

Mrs. Bette Hamon, speaking on behalf of Pro-Life, said the appointment of Dr. Cole would be "unacceptable to our membership at

large throughout Halton."

She said the membership is 2,300. Calling Dr. Cole a "notorious member of the Doctors for the Repeal of the Abortion Law," Mrs. Hamon described the doctor who had imposed abortion and birth control clinics on students in the Toronto school system.

"Wherever Dr. Cole goes, so goes controversy," she said.

The group received permission to circulate to members of Halton Regional Council the dossier they had prepared which they said backed up Pro-Life's charges that with his appointment, Dr. Cole would try

to bring expanded birth control information and more abortions to Halton Region.

Councillors had some discussion on whether or not to allow the debate about Dr. Cole to be discussed in open session, as the appointment was considered a personnel matter.

In the end it was decided to let Mrs. Hamon have her say but to hold the councillors' discussions in private.

However the vote was taken on Dr. Cole, without even bothering to go into closed session and that vote was affirmative.

Halton has been looking for a new MOH almost one year.

Adsett new Warden

Bill Adsett, Reeve of Eramosa Township, is new Warden for Wellington County.

Contesting the seat were Adsett, 45, publisher of the Wellington Advertiser and the Community News, Drayton, and Matthew Seifried, 54, farmer and reeve of Minto Township.

Adsett will succeed Archie MacRobbie, reeve of Puslinch Township. He has been Eramosa reeve for six years, serving on council for seven years.

Adsett said "the new warden should encourage council to become more involved in policy planning for all county areas of water management, transportation, and industrial growth."

He also stated "local zoning by-laws and planning should be the concern of municipalities with the county helping to co-ordinate policy-making."

The last time a reeve of Eramosa was County Warden was in 1907.

Legion Ladies' Auxiliary

Zone Commander visits

by Phyllis Angell
Acton Legion Ladies Auxiliary held their regular general meeting Dec. 4 with Comrade President Jean Earle in the chair. Comrade Zone Commander Rose Green gave us the honor of attending the meeting. Two new members

joined the Auxiliary and a donation of \$200 went to the Friends-in-Deed.

January's regular general meeting will be on the second Thursday, Jan. 8.

Don't forget the Ladies' Appreciation Banquet put on by the

men is this Saturday, Dec. 20. Cocktails are 6 to 7 p.m. with supper at 7 p.m. with a dance following.

The children's Christmas party is this Sunday Dec. 21.

There are still lots of banquets so please try to help.