

Need Acton car pound-Bonnette

There should be a car pound in Acton so vehicles damaged in accidents aren't towed to Georgetown, Councillor Rick Bonnette says.

Monday night Bonnette presented a letter to every councillor from the owner of Halton Hills Collision at Crewton's Corners complaining about the car pound being in Georgetown.

Bonnette asked Mayor Peter Pomeroy to take the problem to Halton Police Commission.

There is no longer a car pound in Acton where Halton Regional Police have vehicles towed to and not many people know about this problem, the rookie Acton councillor explained. He said he "respected" the job done by the police, but thought it was wrong for Acton vehicles to be towed to Georgetown.

He explained insurance adjusters and appraisers come to Acton and find the car isn't in Acton but in Georgetown, so they charge extra time and mileage. Acton doesn't have any appraisers or adjusters, Bonnette noted. In addition, he said, insurance companies encourage drivers to have their vehicles repaired in Georgetown rather than have the car towed back to Acton which is hurting Acton auto body businesses. If vehicles are towed back to Acton for repairs the extra towing cost, as well as adjusters and appraisers' additional costs for going to Georgetown, is reflected in higher insurance premiums.

Pomeroy said he had no problem taking the issue up at Police Commission, but didn't hold out hope for having it rectified.

He noted the region calls tenders for the police towing contract for the police department and he was there when the tenders were opened. Achilles Motors used to have the contract for police towing in Halton Hills, but wasn't the low bidder the last time and lost it to Fred Tolton in Georgetown. Pomeroy warned having pounds in both urban areas might increase costs so there would have to be "negotiations." He said he'd report back to Bonnette and the Acton auto body shop owner.

Bonnette branded the arrangement another "flaw" in regional government.

Pomeroy was visibly annoyed at that remark and said the tender process is used to get the best price and it was all very fair. If the towing contract had stayed with an Acton firm, the mayor suggested Bonnette wouldn't be complaining that the system wasn't fair to Georgetown.

Bonnette suggested it would be easier all the way around if there was a car pound in both Acton and Georgetown.

Don Kociuk, owner of Halton Hills Collision, wrote that he was concerned about business he was losing because the police pound is in Georgetown. He said his chances of even submitting an estimate for repairs to a car involved in an accident in Acton "was just about nil." Insurance companies try to convince car owners there are "competent shops in Georgetown, which there are," rather than have the vehicle towed back to Acton.

He noted he pays his taxes and it "doesn't seem fair what politics can do to you."



Taylor Morey of Acton gave a demonstration of how a television works Saturday at the library.



Award winning junior scientist Paul Benedetti from Cambridge shows how his industrial robot model, complete with a computer, works at the Library Saturday afternoon.



Darryl Dreger and Francois Ven Hender, both of Toronto, gave a talk and demonstration on astronomy at the Acton Library Saturday night as part of the Close Encounters of the Science Fiction Kind program.

Combustion theory in Thompson Fuels fire

Although the cause of the blaze which destroyed Thompson Fuels a few weeks ago officially remains undetermined, Halton Hills fire chief Bill Cunningham has an unofficial theory.

The fire chief said that in the minutes before the fire, owner Lloyd McIntyre had his tanker truck in the garage to thaw out the frozen pump. The smell of gasoline was in the air, Cunningham told The Free Press, and McIntyre opened the garage door for some fresh air. The chief theorizes that as the fresh air came into the building it caused the proper mixture of (gasoline) fumes and oxygen, and that combined with the

flame from the oil-fed water tank caused the explosion.

But, he stressed combustion is only a theory. Cunningham also revealed there was an estimated \$3,000 damage to the Mattocks house to the south of Thompson Fuels. About \$1,000 damage was done to the hedge around the home, and \$2,000 from broken windows, smoke damage, and scorched shingles.

Damage to the McIntyre home, to the north of the business was included in the \$33,000 estimate for the blaze itself, Cunningham said, because the owners of both buildings were one and the same.

Erin bank held up

Two men eluded a police dragnet last Wednesday after a daring daylight robbery at the Toronto Dominion Bank in Erin which netted them approximately \$4,000.

According to Guelph OPP, at about 2 p.m., the men walked into the bank and approached two different tellers, handing them each a note stating that it was a robbery.

Police say no weapons were observed, but after the tellers handed over the money, the men escaped on foot, heading north. They eluded a police road block and the OPP helicopter. The hunt was called off at 6.30 p.m.

The investigation is continuing, according to OPP spokesman Constable Jack Findlater.

One of the suspects is described by police as male, white, six feet, 160-165 pounds,

black, shoulder length curly hair, brown eyes, dark complexion (Italian or European descent), with a piece of white gauze covering his nose. His age is estimated at 20 to 21-years-old, and he was wearing a blue or gray hip length jacket and possibly blue jeans.

The second suspect is 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 7 inches tall, 140 pounds, sandy brown styled hair, long in the front and covering the ears, and had green eyes. His age is estimated to be between 17 and 19 years-old, and he was wearing a medium blue colored jacket with a four to eight inch red stripe running up the middle of the jacket, and a red and blue striped scarf around his neck.

Police ask that anyone in the area who may have seen these men, or anything suspicious the day of the robbery, call the investigating officer, Constable Sheppard of the Guelph OPP

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by Pauline McNelly



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