



This week thru the lens

You can't park and leave keys

Does making it illegal for people to leave their keys in their car violate individual freedoms? That issue was debated at length by Halton Hills general committee last week even though the Town has had a bylaw prohibiting leaving keys in the ignition for some time.

At the request of the police the municipal regulation making it illegal to leave the car keys in the ignition was being covered under a new bylaw so it could be handled under the Provincial Offences Act, so offenders could

mail in their fine and avoid going to court.

Councillor Finn Poulstrup said having a bylaw making it illegal to leave car keys in the ignition would cause problems for some car dealers.

Clerk administrator Ken Richardson said police could lay a charge for leaving keys in the ignition against a car dealer or person who had violated the law while the car was parked in their driveway. However, he added, when the police arrived the owner of the car could require the police to get a warrant before they came on the property and presumably the person would remove the keys while the police were obtaining the warrant.

That was true, Councillor Pam Sheldon said, but any professional thief could break into any home, but that didn't mean people should give up and not try and make their homes secure. Removing keys from the ignition would eliminate the amateur car thief.

Citizens weren't going to be charged unless they invited police to come on their property and lay a charge, Mayor Peter Pomeroy said. Anyone who leaves the key in the ignition when they park on the street deserved to be charged, the mayor added. Council passed the new bylaw.

Meanderings

by Mabel Barkman
Spring Pumpkin Squares

I still have a lot of frozen pumpkin in my freezer and I found this recipe which is a nice change from the inevitable pumpkin pie.

In a large saucepan melt 32 large white marshmallows with one cup of pumpkin, half a teaspoon of ground cinnamon, a quarter of a teaspoon of ground ginger and an eighth of a teaspoon of ground cloves (optional) over low heat, stirring until smooth. Cool about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine 14 crushed graham wafers with a quarter of a cup of butter or margarine melted. Reserve a quarter of a cup for topping and pat the rest firmly into an 8x8x2 inch baking dish. Prepare a packet of dessert topping mix according to directions and fold into cooled marshmallow mixture. Spread over crust. Sprinkle reserved crumbs on top.

Chill several hours or overnight. To serve cut in squares and it serves 12.

Poulstrup said this would still affect auto dealers and they should be given the opportunity to comment before the bylaw was passed.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said he was opposed because a person leaving the keys in the ignition while the car was in their own driveway could be charged.

Engineer Robert Austin noted police want the bylaw because 20 to 30 per cent of accidents involve stolen cars. In some cases those cars have been stolen because keys were left in the ignition.

Councillor Dave Whiting noted a tragic accident several years ago in the Acton area in which seven young people were killed, involved a stolen car in which the keys had been left in the ignition.

Armstrong countered not leaving keys in an ignition wouldn't solve the stolen car problem because cars can be easily opened and hot wire started.

\$1,300 damage

A 16-year-old Rockwood girl's car sustained \$1,300 damage after she attempted to avoid an animal that crossed the path of the car on Fourth Line, just south of 15 Sideroad in Nassagaweya Friday evening.

Halton Regional Police state Katherine Johns went into a ditch after the car she was driving lost control when she attempted to miss the animal. No injuries were caused in the accident.

CWL Proclamation

Mayor Pete Pomeroy will proclaim the week of April 24 to May 1, "Catholic Women's League Week".

Following Town policy, if the CWL wants to publish the proclamation, it will be at its own expense.

Students channel creek

The grade 12 Environmental Science class at Acton High School was busy last Wednesday placing rocks, big and small, in the creek in front of the Acton Library.

Their channelization of the creek is expected to solve the problem of the water course running dry in the summer and becoming over-run with weeds.

Teacher Jane Zarowny noted Indusimin donated the rocks for the project.

She advised it is very important that children and others don't try and move the rocks since changes in the channel could do more damage than if the students had done no work on the creek.

By narrowing the channel, she said, they expect to be able to keep fairly fast flowing water in the creek all summer. There will still be a flood plain for spring run-off.

They put dirt around the rocks, but the creek should also naturally backfill silt behind the rocks.

They also expect by next year the area on either side of the channel which used to be part of the creek should grass over. Then they hope to transplant watercress and other aquatic vegetation found up stream to the banks of the creek. In addition the Ministry of Natural Resources plans to provide stream bank shrubs.

Shown here in the photos with Jane Zarowny and Ministry of Natural Resources advisor Nancy Kilt are students Carol Diener, Kathy Johns, Naomi Donat, Rick Dodds, Rick Chapman, Peter Volmar, Scott McDonough, Jackie Colton, Mike Yalowica, Joanne McArthur, Joe Balkind, Gary White and Shirley Murray.

Citizens' Band concert Sunday

Acton Citizens' Band will present its spring concert, "Band and Keyboard" this Sunday night at McKenzie-Smith School at 8 p.m.

The concert will feature director George Elliott playing several pieces on a beautiful new 200 pipe portable organ loaned to the band by the manufacturer, Brunzema Organs Inc. of Fergus.

Acton High School band director Dave Sale will play the oboe in several numbers also.

The band will offer an interesting selection of music. Offerings will include Kenneth Alford's Holyrood march; an organ concerto; an oboe concerto; highlights from Jesus Christ Superstar; and other selections.

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