

Residents "Not too Happy" But Many Resigned to Flood Plain

While the residents of Terra Cotta and Cheltenham are not too happy with the imposition of the Credit River flood-plain lines, many appear resigned.

"It has no real effect on us," said Mrs. Robert Footitt. The family operates a convenience store on the main street of Cheltenham which is only a few feet from the river.

"As far as we are concerned we have no need to build on the store," she said.

The family has operated the store for the past 24 years. Previous to that they had operated a similar venture in Terra Cotta.

NOT NOTIFIED

As far as Mrs. Footitt knows, they had not been notified of when the flood-lines were to be established and what effect it would have on them.

"No! We have not been notified about the flood-plain line. We haven't been officially notified of the Hydro line either," said Alex Mackenzie, also of Cheltenham.

The family has been living in its home for the past 25 years. During the interview he continued to decorate his home and showed no real concern on the topic.

How does he feel about the establishment of the flood-plain lines? "We figure they should leave it alone. We tried to get them to put in a dam about 15 years ago but they said the valley was not big enough.

"We haven't had a flood here since '52. I think, at that time the ice backed up at the bridge and the water came about a foot above the driveway," said Mr. Mackenzie.

OUTLINED IN ACT

The regulations concerning the flood-lines are outlined under the Conservation Authorities Act, 1968.

Under the regulations construction is not permitted within the designated high-water mark and neither is the dumping of fill nor the change of the existing course of any water body.

The conservation authority, however, may permit any of the above such work following consideration of the proper applications.

These regulations are enforced in "all lands within the valley of the Credit River between Lake Ontario and the Credit Forks Station," and in "all lands within the valley of Fletcher's Creek in the town of Brampton between Steeles Avenue and the dividing line between lots eight and nine."

Would the Credit Valley Conservation Authority allow construction in Terra Cotta or Cheltenham?

"It all depends on the circumstances," said Harry Watson, general manager of the authority. "Each case is considered on its individual merits."

The approval would depend on the location of the property and any other circumstances that might affect it.

"In most cases it would not be allowed. If we issue a permit, I would think that we could be held responsible if anything happens," said Watson.

HEARD AT COUNCIL

"The first indication we had about the flood-line was at the council meeting at the school," said Mrs. George Savage.

She was referring to a regular council meeting held at the Credit View Public School, November 15.

"I suppose if we were going to build, we would not be too happy about it, but how do you buck the provincial government? If it was a local bylaw it would be different," she said.

The family has lived in Cheltenham for the past eight years and Mrs. Savage said she does not think the restrictions will have any real effect on it.

David Andrews and his family live in a modern ranch-style brick home in Terra Cotta.

Mrs. Andrews said that they have lived there for the past six years. From their well-kept front-yard, they can look across the road at the river.

"We were not notified," said Mrs. Andrews. "I think we should have been."

She said the first indication the family got of the restrictions was during the summer after they had sold a nearby house.

The woman that purchased the home, she said, couldn't get a permit to expand the building. She had wanted to add a guest room.

MORTGAGE A WORRY

Brent Nelson lives down the

road from the Andrews family. His one-storey frame home is between the road and the river. He has lived there for 3 1/2 years.

Mr. Nelson said he first heard of the flood-lines at the council meeting held in the Credit View school.

He said he is not concerned about building or adding to his home but that he is concerned about his mortgage.

His present mortgage expires in three years. "What am I going to do if I can't get a mortgage?"

The imposition of the lines, he said, is taking "away the rights of the individual."

"I don't care about an addition, I am concerned about the mortgage the authorities should give me a new one if I can't get one," said Mr. Nelson.

The plans for expansion at the Terra Cotta Inn may be severely affected by the flood-plain regulations.

Manager Eric Dunlop said he was not aware of the regulations until recently when they were brought to his attention by a village resident.

"In some ways it is a good thing, it stops a lot of building in the area."

"It is hard hitting, however, on the people who are living here and want to build or expand," said Mr. Dunlop.

HAVE TO EXPAND

"We have to expand here," he said. The large number of out-of-town guests have created a need for additional rooms, he said, and another beverage facility.

We were granted our liquor licence two years ago. We are in a necessity to the community, we are the only licensed place around here," he added.

The inn owns property on the other side of the river, said the manager. The land, he said, is approximately 35 acres.

"We had hopes of perhaps erecting a small ski lodge and a tow, because of the slope of the land."

"All our hopes for a great expansion might be affected by this," said Mr. Dunlop.

An application for the expansion will be filed anyway, he said.

Mr. Dunlop said the building housing the inn was constructed in 1950. The establishment was opened for its present use in 1950.

He estimated the income of the business at \$250,000 per annum. The inn is staffed by 50 employees during the summer and 25 in winter.

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"We have had so many problems here, it is hard to work up enthusiasm over a new one," said John Agg of Terra Cotta.

"We were not given any notice of the new regulations, it seems to have just gradually come to light."

He said he was not opposed to the regulations. "They seem to have good intentions."

SEVERELY RESTRICTED

The problem, he said, was that people living below the lines were severely restricted in what they can do.

As to inquiries about the notification of the area residents Harry Watson, general manager of the authority replied, "We notified every municipality about it in February to March last year. We asked them to give the widest publicity possible and we sent out several press releases."

Are Snowmobiles Release Valves?

It is a fact that impaired ability has been found to be a contributing factor in a high percentage of snowmobile accidents. Yet most of the operators involved were responsible, law-abiding people in all other aspects of living. Most of them did not have even a mark against their car driving record.

The Ontario Safety League wonders if the snowmobile is becoming a release valve for the frustrations and pressures of today's living. In any case, the excessive amount of drinking being done by snowmobilers is having devastating results. A snowmobile operator requires all his faculties unimpaired to safely control his machine under the varied conditions which he is bound to meet.

Keen eyesight, balance and fast reflexes are vital to safe snowmobiling and it is a known fact that alcohol diminishes these faculties as well as taking the edge off the enjoyment of this fine sport. If you want to work out your frustrations and pressures,

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NORTH HALTON REPORT

During the week ending December 18, officers of the Ontario Provincial Police stationed at North Halton Detachment worked a total of 848 hours and patrolled 2,037 miles on area roads. Eighteen drivers were charged for traffic violations and an additional 27 persons received warnings. Thirty six convictions were registered in Provincial Court in Milton.

Officers were required to investigate 48 general occurrences. Included in these investigations were: 1 break and enter, 1 theft, 1 disturbance, 4 persons charged for violating the Liquor Control Act, 4 premises found insecure by officers on patrol and 3 domestic complaints. The remaining occurrences were minor in nature.

Twenty vehicles were involved in 15 collisions which resulted in damage estimated to total \$16,732. Seven collisions caused damage to property only but the 8 remaining collisions caused injury to 15 people. Seven drivers have been summoned to appear in Provincial Court in Milton as a result of being involved in these collisions. The causes of these

collisions have been attributed to: inattentive driving, speed too fast for road and traffic conditions and following too closely.

Prov. Const. J. H. L. Redpath, Accident Prevention Officer for North Halton Detachment spoke to 635 students at Stewartrivon Public School and Mary Hopkins Public School Waterdown about safety.

Once again many drivers have realized that snow and ice cause slippery road conditions. Make your holiday season and the coming New Year not only happy but also safe...reduce speed and increase concentration during the treacherous winter conditions.

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