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Roof Of Terra Cotta Inn Shows Ravages Of Early-Morning Fire

(Herald Photo)

## Terra Cotta Inn Guttled By Fire

### Loss Is Put At \$250,000

Damage to the Terra Cotta Inn was estimated at more than \$250,000 when it was gutted by fire early Friday morning.

The blaze was battle for more than two hours by fire fighters from Cheltenham, Snelgrove, Caledon and Brampton.

The fire was reported by resident manager and accountant for Terra Cotta Inn, Ross Curry.

Mr. Curry was sleeping in his room when he awakened to the sound of an alarm and the smell of smoke. He helped three others from the building before running to the local general store to report the fire.

Terra Cotta Inn owner, Strachan Bongard, was deeply hurt at the loss of the building and the thousands of dollars worth of antique furniture from Europe that it housed. Most of what was not destroyed by the flames was severely damaged by smoke and water.

The fire is believed to have started in the basement of the building which is reportedly more than a century old and which Mr. Bongard purchased only last year.

According to some fire department sources, the fire could have originated in the basement. After the fire was put out, a few senior fire department officials were seen going into the basement and staying there for some time.

Volunteer platoon Chief Bert Wilson, Caledon Fire Department, when asked about the basement said: "I can't say anything now. It is possible." Mr. Curry opened his door which opens onto a staircase leading outside and was hit by a cloud of smoke which filled his room.

### HITS FLOOR

Almost instinctively he dropped to the floor and crawled to the other two occupied rooms on the same floor.

There was a man from Toronto and another couple also from Toronto staying there and he asked all of them to hold hands, get to the floor, and crawl out with him.

Making sure the second fire escape was not engulfed by flames he led them all to safety and then running to the local general store, telephoned fire emergency.

District Chief Bill Core from Brampton responded along with Caledon volunteers and the firefighting was begun.

Meanwhile, Mr. Curry also called Mr. Bongard.

The King's room of the Inn housed a big brass bed bought years ago by Mr. Bongard from Norway for in excess of \$5,000.

It was used to decorate one of the five guest rooms with royal furniture to be called the King's Room.

The rest of the Inn was decorated with mostly antiques from Lyons, France and old Canadian furniture of the Victorian style. Most of it was destroyed, if not by the fire, by smoke, and the water used to fight the fire.



Firefighter Tackles Blaze From The Rooftop

Firemen from Cheltenham, Snelgrove, Caledon and Brampton battled the fire at Terra Cotta Inn for over two hours. Over \$250,000 damage was done at the fire.

## Plan Row Housing Units At Mountainview-Sinclair

A landsite that some councillors originally wanted as the location of the Georgetown Recreational Centre will probably now house 220 row housing units.

Halton Hills Councillors seemed to like a proposal laid before them by Fred Eisen, the vice president of Four Seasons Hotels Ltd., the Toronto development firm that built and owns such Toronto landmarks as the Four Seasons Hotel and Inn On The Park.

The presentation made to council Monday, was handled smoothly and clearly won over many councillors on the strength of a half dozen artists' renditions of the housing units that are planned for a 15 acre triangular chunk of land south of Highway 7, bounded by Mountainview Avenue and Sinclair Avenue.

The drawings were true to the promise from Mr. Eisen that the row housing units would avoid the repetitive nature of similar projects carried out in Georgetown and other areas.

Their design, municipal planner Mario Venditti called Semi-Georgian, breaks the

exterior of the buildings into different elevations, distance from the street, and even into varieties of design.

Councillor Ric Morrow welcomed the designs as being 'aesthetically pleasing' but even so they encountered some opposition from councillors Harry Levy and E.T. Hyde.

Both men objected that the 15 acre property was zoned commercial, and indicated their hopes that it would eventually be used to provide space for an extension to an existing shopping centre located on Highway 7.

Mr. Eisen said that he holds four acres of land adjacent to that shopping centre and said that commercial tenants are being sought for the potential

building site. If new stores are constructed on the four acres he said that the shopping place would be malled in, and hinted that a major theatre chain is already considering moving in on that condition.

He said however that a major expansion at the plaza is not likely because the major tenants already there hold restrictive covenants on the surrounding property that forbid construction of either a major new food store or department store.

Mr. Eisen said that the four bedroom units, when constructed would sell in the \$40,000 range. As part of his presentation he said that three acres of the land could be reserved for municipal use either as parkland or as the site for a municipal building.

## Arts Council Grant For Little Theatre

An Ontario Arts Council grant, through Theatre Ontario, means that again this year, the Georgetown Little Theatre will be holding a series of workshops under professional guidance.

Starting on Sunday, August 25, and continuing each night until Thursday, August 29, the workshops will cover "On Stage Activity", "Directing", and "Design", and are open to anyone who might like to attend free of charge.

The instructor, will be Mr. Frederick Thury. Although Mr. Thury has been teaching in the Fine Arts Department of York University for the last four and a half years, he is perhaps better known as a writer.

composer and director. His musical play "Nuts, Bolts and Rusty Things" had a successful run at Global Village in Toronto and has also been performed elsewhere in Ontario and the U.S.A.

A measure of its success is that it is soon to be published in "Anthology of Great Canadian Plays" and its author has won a playwright award from the Canada Arts Council and been nominated for the Chalmers Award.

Mr. Thury studied with Sir Tyrone Guthrie at the Lincoln Centre and among his directing achievements lists "Marat Sade" and "Under Milk Wood" both produced at York University.

## Walkway Closing Raises Protest

Residents of Regan Crescent in Georgetown have protested a decision to close a walkway, and are asking council for a chance to air their objections to the closing.

In a petition signed by residents of Regan Crescent, 44 in number, five reasons are given for objection to the closing. Works committee's recent action in recommending the closing is called arbitrary.

Karl Thier appeared before the committee to request the closing. He cited disturbances caused by motorcycles using the route and litter and garbage as reasons.

The committee agreed that the walkway should be closed. Committee chairman Len Cox said the town could retain access to the walkway but it could be gated and kept locked.

Coun. Ern Hyde said the walkway is just a right-of-way and is not an access-way from one piece of town property to another.

The residents of Regan Crescent who object to the closing protested that Mr. Thier is "not the sole resident of Regan Crescent" but "only Mr. Thier has been consulted on the subject."

The petitioners say the allegation of motorcycles "zipping" along the walkway is

"patently ridiculous, as it is far too steep for such action. Closing this access will not keep motorcycles out of the valley, only the children and adults who enjoy walking there."

Closing the walkway also would deprive local children of access to a good recreational area and will encourage trespassers across those lots abutting the ravine.

The petitioners also allege that Mr. Thier is attempting to "gain control of this particular piece of land." Council has proceeded to act on past complaints, the petitioners noted.

Finally, the petitioners point out that children from George Kennedy school are frequently taken down to the valley for nature classes via this route.

The petitioners also said they fail to understand why the works committee should take such rapid action on the request of a single citizen without reference to council or to other Regan Crescent residents.

The petition is addressed to Mayor Tom Hill, and an audience is requested with council. One of the petition signers, Mrs. F. Browne said, "There are other streets in the same situation and we feel this action will be of interest to them also."



HOW'S BUSINESS

Do you suppose Eaton's does sell Simpsons, or vice versa? These two delivery trucks, the one on the left belonging to Eaton's and the one on the right a Simpsons' vehicle, were stopped side by side on a Georgetown street while their drivers conversed. We don't know the nature of the conversation but just maybe they were talking about business.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**GAGE STATIONERY CO.**, of Georgetown, 71 Todd Rd., has been awarded a \$16,230 federal contract to supply graph drawing paper. Contract award was announced Monday. It was one of 145 unclassified federal contracts, each worth \$10,000 or more.

**MORE RIDERS ARE USING GO** Transit services but any increase due to the Toronto transit strike has not been pronounced from such Northwest stations as Georgetown and Brampton. Roy McEwan, operations manager, said main increase has been recorded inbound and outbound from Malton, Weston and Bloor stations.

**COUNCIL HERE IS** interested in encouraging the construction of additional senior citizen units in Georgetown. Council last night approved, without comment, a planning committee recommendation that the town planner be authorized to request copies of a suitable site plan for a seniors housing project.

**TWO YOUTHS HAVE** been charged with causing a disturbance as a result of a scuffle that police say took place at the Canadian Tire Store in Acton. Charged were Gary Taillefer, 25, of 38 Holmesway Ave. in Acton and Paul Robertson, 29, of Malton, Ontario. The incident occurred at 1.30 a.m. Saturday morning. The two men will appear Oct. 9 in Milton Provincial Court.

This week there were nine cases of thefts from automobiles. Two batteries were taken from cars of Jack Harrison, of Maple Avenue Georgetown, and Alpha Larocque of Queen Street. Steve Curtis from Moore Park Crescent lost a Pionella tape deck. Larry Taylor lost a Holiday tape deck, F. Poustrup, of Fagan Drive lost an Ampex tape and FM radio and Robert Casson, also of Moore Park lost a Panasonic tape deck.

Doug Brownie, from Moultrie Crescent had his credit cards stolen, and several other cars were broken into but the thieves decided nothing was worth stealing. Four tape decks, two batteries and other assorted goods, including a Goodyear tire and rim stolen because people didn't bother making it difficult for thieves.

The police urge everyone to lock their cars, even if only leaving for a few minutes, because that's all it takes for a thief to make his presence painfully felt.



SUMMERTIME GAL

Linda Malanuk of 9 McIntyre Crescent, Georgetown, is spending this summer doing nothing at all but taking it easy. Linda, who attends Georgetown and District High School, moved to Georgetown with her parents about a year and a half ago.

## Pick Committee Chairman For Acton Protest Group

The Acton residents who for two months have organized a protest over the odors emanating from the Beardmore Tannery elected a chairman and steering committee at a weekend meeting but have yet to select a name for their newly structured group.

The new chairman is Harold Jeffrey, of Kingham Hill Road, while the steering committee is made up of Ron Mellon, Steve Lawr, Bob Holmes, and the two women, Stella Iredale and Jean Barclay-Smith who started the whole thing in June.

At that time the women began circulating a petition protesting the tannery smell that washes over much of the town. The petition now contains more than 600 names and according to Chairman Jeffrey is almost complete.

"We'll take one more run on the downtown area," said Mr. Jeffrey. "We're going to get the people on the street to sign it."

He noted that the 600 names already gathered constitute more than 10 per cent of the population here. Those names, along with a brief which is to be prepared will be delivered to MPP George Kerr, and MP Dr. Frank Philbrook, hopefully at a public meeting attended by the two representatives.

Mr. Jeffrey is not convinced that the politicians will be able to make it to the planned meeting but said that if necessary the petition and brief will be taken to them.

**PROTEST DELAYS** He said that the brief will protest delays in eliminating the odors which originate from settling ponds for tanning wastes at Beardmore. Although the ponds are no longer in use, years of accumulated waste perpetuate the ongoing problem.

Mr. Jeffrey complained that

Canada Packers Ltd., owners of the tannery avoided an directive issued in 1969, by the ministry of the environment that called for a complete solution to the problem by 1971.

That deadline has since been moved back to 1975, and although the problem has to a large extent been reduced Mr. Jeffrey feels that interim measures so should be employed to reduce the odor until it is completely and permanently eliminated.

He said that until the ponds are completely filled they should be treated with alum, which he says would cause solid wastes suspended in the water to drop to the bottom.

**LIME NEEDED** Because the particles of flesh, manure and hair scraped from hides in the tanning process are left clinging above the water level on the shores of the pond he said that lime should be scattered on the banks.

"Fluctuating water levels leave the solids on the edges of the pits to rot in the sun," he said. "Lime would solve the

problem, and lime is cheap. The formative meeting of the group, held on Saturday, drew 16 area residents, a low turnout that prompted complaints from one member of the steering committee.

"Nobody here wants to get involved in anything," said Ron Mellon "There's no doubt about it, we have a problem in this town."

The group that was formed however may prove to be the springboard for the formation of a local branch of Pollution Probe or of an organization affiliated with that group.

The proposal was made at the meeting by W.A. Johnston, chairman of Group United Against Rural Dumping, but apparently drew an ambivalent response from the residents who did attend.

Mr. Mellon said he personally is not interested in taking on any other cause if and when the Beardmore problem is resolved but Bob Holmes, also a member of the steering committee said he liked the idea and indicated that so too did other people at the meeting.

## Pollution Is Feared From Landfill Sites

According to W.A. Johnston, two landfill sites proposed in a preliminary study for the Halton region could pollute drinking water in Acton and Guelph.

The study, said Mr. Johnston, who is with the Group United Against Rural Dumping (GIARD) pointed out that the site proposed for Eden Mills, is very close to the Blue Springs Creek and the Eramosa River.

Also, one site, proposed near Acton, lies beside a small lake which flows into Fairy Lake, a popular swimming

area in the town. "We're trying to get the people of Guelph interested in this problem, because I maintain that their drinking water is threatened," Mr. Johnston said.

He added that he hoped the residents in Acton which are opposed to the offensive smell from Beardmore, a local tannery, would unite to oppose all forms of pollution, including the landfill sites.

"These things could become veritable time bombs, and we certainly don't know what could happen," he added. "I'm particularly against landfill sites because they're not the answer."

Mr. Johnston noted that he feels that the damage caused by landfill sites can never be measured in dollars and cents, and if the region continues with the two landfill sites which are proposed with about 15 other sites in the area, many people can be in trouble.

"Within the next ten decades the water in Lake Ontario will become undrinkable, and the people will be turning to the water sheds for fresh water, but what will we say, that our water is polluted because of landfill sites," he asked.

However, a spokesman for the Halton Regional Engineers Department, who would not give his name, pointed out that the solid waste management study outlined at least a half dozen other proposals.

"I'd think that will take the areas which are more centrally located than the ones in the north," the spokesman said.

## It's Back To Private Life For Former MP For Halton

Almost two years after he stepped into political life as a member of Parliament for Halton, Terry O'Connor is back in the fold of private life.

Defeated in Halton in the July election (he was one of the Progressive Conservative casualties suffered under Robert Stanfield's campaign leadership) he's returned to the practice of law and now is associated with an Oakville law firm.

But his political interest has not come to an end. He's going to remain politically active and he'll probably be seeking a candidature again, most likely in the federal field, where his interest really lies. His interest in politics spans two decades.

Mr. O'Connor lost his bid for re-election by fewer than 2,000



TERRY O'CONNOR

votes. He actually polled more votes in 1974 than he did in 1972.

He is not bitter about his defeat (he says his family will be happy to see more of him) but he believes heavy Conservative losses, especially in Ontario, were due to loss of public confidence in the party.

Some observations: Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau will return to an arrogance of office that marked his first term;

Age level of Canada's MPs is getting lower and more capable candidates regularly seeking office, giving the country overall better representation in what has become a full-time job.