

Wrecking yards: necessary evils

Wrecking yards. No one wants them. However, wrecking yards have become a necessity. Can there be a compromise between conservation and necessity?

A Limehouse Citizens Group much concerned over the safety of the yard and of the conservation aspects of the wrecking yard located in Limehouse, voiced their serious objections and concerns to town council. This resulted in a resolution passed by the council which stated that Fred Tolton, operator of the much criticized wrecking

yard, had 14 days to move the fence in front of the yard 25 feet back from the road line. Failure to do so would result in a cancellation of his operators license.

A building investigator found that the present fence is approximately 12 to 15 feet away from the road line, however town regulations state that wrecking yard fences must not be located any closer than 25 feet from a regional road.

But, as in almost all cases, there is more than just one side to a story.

Owner The man in the middle Citizens

"We aren't going to do anything until we have received official notice on council's decision. Once we receive the official notice then, we will decide on what we plan to do," stated Fred Tolton, owner of the Limehouse wrecking yard.

However, Mr. Tolton pointed out that he is not being "hard to get along with" as far as positioning his fence properly. Mr. Tolton has had two surveys taken of his property and the region has taken at least three surveys all of which showed that sections of the road lie on Tolton's property.

"It's a regional road, I approached the region about putting a fence up. The region said, go ahead, no problem, just place the fence as far away from the road as you can. And that's what I did," explained Mr. Tolton.

"A lot of people think I put the fence up on town property, but I have proof that it is on my land. I'm not out to move the road but I'm about to use my property the way I wish," stated Mr. Tolton.

He went on to explain that two weeks ago an environmental inspector looked over the wrecking yard and had only one complaint. Mr. Tolton was told to put up a fence along the one side of the yard. "Other than that he had nothing to complain about," stated Mr. Tolton.

"The road is where it shouldn't be so I really can't move the fence until they move the road off my property, can I?" concluded Mr. Tolton.

"If he (Tolton) doesn't adhere to the bylaws then the town will definitely press charges," explained Councillor Russ Miller in a recent interview.

Councillor Miller went on to explain that the town is having a survey taken to determine where the roads' boundary line lies. Once the boundary line is determined then Mr. Tolton will have to set the fence 25 feet from where the boundary line should lie.

"We have to take action if the bylaws are disobeyed. We (the town) have to show people that the bylaws are meant to be followed or there is no use in having them," commented Councillor Miller.

Councillor Miller became involved in the wrecking yard issue after receiving a number of citizens' complaints. In a previous statement Councillor Miller reflected the complaints and concerns of the Limehouse citizens.

"He (Tolton) has not been a good resident of the neighborhood. We must act for the citizens of the area whose property has decreased in value because of that yard," Councillor Miller also pointed out the dangers involved because of the present fence enclosing the wrecking yard.

"That's a very dangerous corner. One of these days there's going to be an accident there."

"If council doesn't take action then we (the Limehouse citizens group) will have to go up higher for legal aid," stated Ross Irwin, spokesman for the group.

"We're going to push council to take more action. Either Mr. Tolton is in the wrong or he is in the right. But we want to know where we stand," continued Mr. Irwin.

Mr. Irwin explained that a number of school bus drivers have refused to drive around the corner by the wrecking yard because of the present fence blocking the view. He went on to outline the other complaints of the Limehouse citizens.

"Who wants a wrecking yard along the main street of their village or town? We are trying to get the town back on its feet again. Everyone is doing his part in cleaning up. But, what's the use with that yard staring at you? It should never have been allowed in the first place."

Mr. Irwin continued to say that the citizens are not trying to force Mr. Tolton out of business.

"We have to take both sides of this. We don't want to put the man out of business and we know we have to have wrecking yards. But let's have them in a proper location. Maybe if the town would give Mr. Tolton some assistance in re-locating his yard this whole thing could be solved much easier and quicker," concluded Mr. Irwin.

EARLY FALL NEEDS

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Charged under new gun control bylaw

Halton Regional Police investigated five instances of theft this past week. The construction site of the new McDonald's Restaurant was the scene of a theft. Men on duty notified District One a steel column, nine feet long, was stolen from the premises Sunday night.

An Armstrong Avenue office worker reported that her wallet was stolen from her desk while unattended. The wallet contained \$45 in mixed bills, an English five-pound note and four credit cards. A rosefield boy reports that his yellow bicycle was stolen from his home.

A licensed 10-speed bicycle was stolen from a Rexway Drive home while locked. Investigation is continuing.

Two break and enters were reported to area police, both in the downtown area. An unoccupied house on Park Avenue and the Halton Hills Library were the targets of thieves who gained nothing in their attempts.

Three Mississauga residents were charged under the new bylaw prohibiting the discharge of fire-arms within the boundaries of the town.

Their rifles and ammunition were seized by police as indicated in the bylaw.

Vandals painted and removed sections of the fence surrounding the wrecking yard of Fred's Auto Body in Limehouse. The Acton

precinct of the regional police have been advised.

Eight arrests were made under the disturbance or obstruction of a peace officer section of the criminal code last Friday night, six of which were Georgetown youths.

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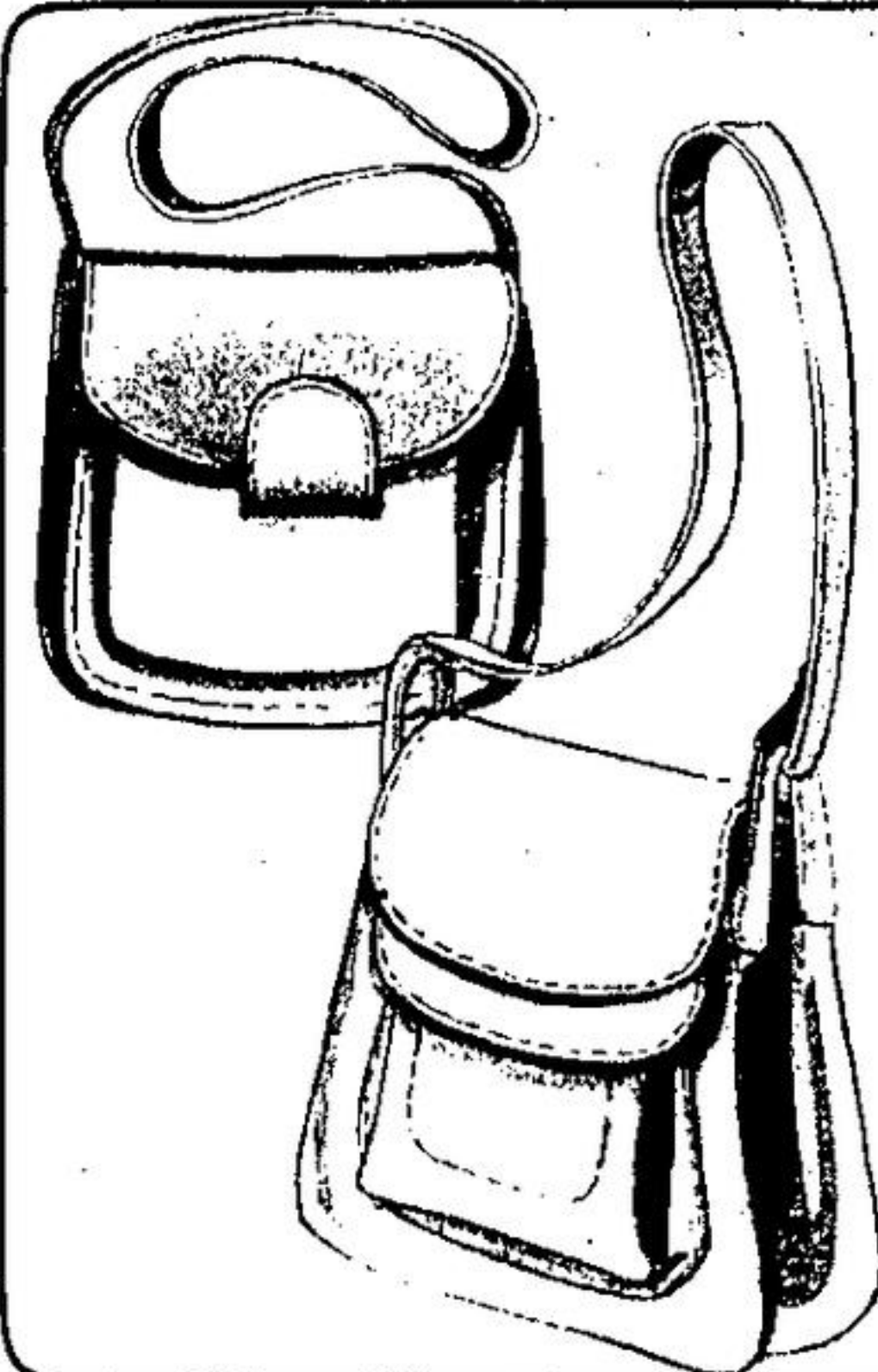
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