

The Campbells arrive but will they return?



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

The Campbells have arrived. They're no longer in our backyards, but in our television sets.

Those of you tripping by the Eighth Line this past summer might have noticed all the trappings of Hollywood, USA. A television adventure series called The Campbells aired for the first time Sunday night at 7 p.m. The next show is on tomorrow night starting at 7:30 p.m.

In the spring, a production company, aptly named Settler Films, built a set on the vast properties of Scotsdale Farms near Ballinacree.

The 540-acre spread is ideal for the filming of this Walt Disney-like adventure. The interior of their Canadian homestead is filmed in a former school in Toronto. However, the Campbell farm is set among the clearings in a remote spot on Scotsdale.

Can a show about Canadian settlers be marketed for viewers in Scotland and the United States? Producer John DeImage is counting on it, after lining up financial support from CTV, Scottish Television and Freemantle Productions in New York.

The first episode moves through a series of events very quickly. James Campbell, a village doctor, finds himself in trouble with a local land baron. A widower, this good doctor

decides to take his two sons and young daughter on a voyage to Canada. He's lured abroad by a strong-willed son looking for adventure and a huckster-type land agent who says "it sounds like a dream, but it's a dream that can come true."

For this family, anyway, Canada seems to be the answer to their problems. In the autumn of 1831, the family sails away to Upper Canada in search of "a new life."

We miss the voyage, across the Atlantic, which is unfortunate. A study of pioneer life isn't complete without documenting the passage to Canada. But then again, no one is calling this a big-budget television series.

The future does look bright for The Campbells, though. The cast seems solid enough.

To survive, the series will need a lively script, full of adventure, conflict and a steady stream of flamboyant guest actors.

The Campbells won't necessarily be back to Halton Hills. In July, some members of our town council were angry that shooting began before permission from the Niagara Escarpment Commission had been formally granted. If filming resumes next spring, the NEC will still have to approve the shoot, on property held in trust by the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Then again, the film will have to be a success in terms of ratings; no audience, no advertisers, no advertisers, no money. The Campbells is a good start in filming Canada's heritage. We do have quite a story to tell, even if we don't have a Daniel Boone or a Davey Crockett.

Mountainview Rd. stays 30 metres

Halton Region is expected to approve changes to the Official Plan Wednesday which would maintain a 30 metre road width for Mountain-

view Road between Highway 7 and Summit Lane in Georgetown.

Amendment No. 9 to the region's Official Plan also must be approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

The revision was urged by Mountainview Road residents and by the Town of Halton Hills.

In Stewarttown

36 new homes under review

Public input is still welcomed by the town on the proposal to develop 36 single family homes in Stewarttown.

You have until Jan. 29 to submit written comments to the town on the residential development proposed for Part Lot 17, Con 7.

Monday night, a public meeting was held by the town on the Halton Hills Development Corporation plans, drawing about 30 people to the town council chambers.

Comments made during the meeting and submitted to the town will be considered in the report on the development by town planners. That report is expected to come before the town's general committee meeting Feb. 3 at 7 p.m., again in the council chambers.

The development received draft approval back in 1981 under the name Mantus Developments Ltd. Ownership changed, and the draft approval was recently extended for another year.

Halton Hills Development Corporation has changed the design of the original plan of subdivision, bringing a road that was to be adjacent to the CNR railway lines into the subdivision instead.

Consulting engineer on the project Bob Clipsham explained the change

had been made to accommodate a noise barrier and a berm alongside the railway lines.

The original plans didn't provide sufficient room for these requirements made by the Ministry of the Environment, Mr. Clipsham said.

The subdivision is on a 28-acre parcel of land in the northwest quadrant of Stewarttown, east of the CNR tracks, south of Maple Avenue and west of Trafalgar Road.

The new residents would be using Trafalgar Road and Stewarttown Road as access to their lots. For the 19 lots backing onto the railway tracks, a berm is to be built, with a noise barrier atop it.

The homes will have individual septic tank systems with servicing up to hamlet standards.

A Mr. Hooper of Stewarttown Road expressed concern that there would be drainage problems caused to existing residents as a result of the septic tanks. He pointed out part of a field adjacent to his property has drainage tiles and asked whether they would be disturbed.

Mr. Clipsham said he hadn't known about that, and said that with development of the site, there would no longer be a tile drainage system.

systems that percolate into the site. He was also told the new design had the same number of homes in the planning as had the original plan.

David Dodson, another neighbor wanted to know if the metal noise barriers would cause rebounding of the sound and suggested the sound barrier continue to Maple Avenue.

Manor renovations grant

Don Knight, M.P.P. Halton Burlington, announced this week plans to renovate Halton Centennial Manor, a 370-bed municipal home for the aged in Milton.

Mr. Knight said that the ministry would share in half of the \$7 million required to renovate the home with its operators, Halton Region.

"I am pleased that the Ministry is able to provide this financial support to help the operators of Halton Centennial Manor meet the changing needs of its senior residents," said Mr. Knight. "It is part of the ministry's over-all plan to help upgrade Ontario's homes for the aged."



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