

Council not hiding in the bushes on residents' shrub trimming issue

Three homeowners in Hillon Hills will be given a bill for the cutting of their trees, shrubs or hedges by town staff.

The homeowners will be billed for work town staff did to trim trees, shrubs or hedges. However, one resident should escape paying after general committee members agreed Monday to waive the fee.

At the town's request, some residents were asked to trim back trees and shrubbery that were hanging over public roads. Four failed to comply and a staff report recommends giving the defaulting homeowners a bill for \$20, to pay for

labor and administrative costs involved with the town doing the work.

Mayor Russ Miller spoke in favor of a warning letter instead of billing the four homeowners who failed to comply with the town's request. The town should be concerned with having good public relations and people felt they were being intimidated, he said.

Coun. Lil Bowman said it wouldn't be fair for the rest of the people who agreed to do the trimming work themselves. "This is not our money, folks, let's remember that."

"The law is the law is the law..." said Coun. Betty Fisher, noting that others had complied with the bylaw. Are laws meant to be broken, or bent, she said.

But Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson said there is an exception and in the case of one gentleman's home the town didn't do the job it should have done.

The Mayor agreed with Coun. Serjeantson, saying in the one case no one knocked on the door, although the homeowner was inside. He said the town engineer told him the trimming job done by the staff "was a

mess."

Coun. Norm Elliott said "why must all four be forgiven?" "If there's a particular complaint from one, deal with that one," he added.

Perhaps the town even owes the homeowner some money to make amends for the damage done, said Coun. Gerald Hennie. The recommendation by the mayor to waive fees for all four residents was defeated. However, an amendment stating that three of the four defaulters should be billed was approved.

Council will vote next Monday on the issue.

Possibility of street lights looks brighter

Using a different method of gauging traffic flow makes putting traffic lights at the Delrex Boulevard-Guelph Street intersection more feasible.

A town engineering report was completed in response to concerns of a Chelvin Drive resident.

Boulevard to enter Guelph Street in response to traffic operational concerns," says the report.

A lack of Delrex Boulevard traffic has been a downfall in meeting requirements for having a traffic light installed in the past.

However, using spot speed radar studies on Guelph Street, staff learned that the average speed of motorists was in the mid-70 kph range. Now, a different set of calculations called "free flow minimum values" show that traffic

signals are warranted at the intersection under those conditions.

The engineering department has sent its report to the Ministry of Transport and is waiting to hear back about eligibility for subsidy of a traffic light.

Traffic lights cost in excess of \$50,000 said town engineer Bob Austin. If the lights are approved by the Ministry, the town is eligible for a 90 per cent subsidy, he said. If the lights are not approved the town has to pay 100 per cent of the cost.

At the general committee meeting Monday, Mr. Austin said residents in the area want a light to exit and enter onto Delrex Boulevard.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson, who requested the traffic light proposal be studied, mentioned problems about transport trucks stopping at the nearby Mac's Milk store.

She wondered if the two meter maids employed by the town could ticket the obstructing trucks which block motorists' line of vision.

Mr. Austin said the town could look into a no stopping area.

Police beat

Hoods, vandals

Cars damaged by vandals who like jumping on roofs and hoods are keeping insurance adjusters busy.

Dec. 6 on Main Street in Georgetown, a 1986 Mercury was damaged, with police estimating the repairs to be worth \$500.

Dec. 30 on Charles St., a vandal jumped on the hood of a car causing \$300 damage.

A 1971 Buick on John Street was walked upon by a person, causing \$800 Dec. 6.

Snowblower missing

A Bolens snowblower valued at \$653 was taken from Outdoor Power Equipment by thieves Dec. 3. The store is on Guelph Street in Georgetown.

Slippery road

A slippery patch of road caused two drivers to slip into a ditch on Sideroad 22 Dec. 4. The Acton driver of a 1984 Ford attempted to stop at the intersection, but her car crossed the Eighth Line into a ditch. The Acton driver of a 1985 Plymouth followed a short time later and the same incident was repeated. Total damage to both cars was about \$1,800.

Busy thieves

One 18-year-old and two young offenders, aged 16 and 17 years, have been active in the Kingham Road and Storey Drive area of Acton stealing from home and car owners.

The trio were caught last week and have been arrested in connection with seven individual incidents.

Between the nights of Dec. 4 and 5 four properties on Storey Drive and two on Kingham Road were visited by the youths.

A list of stolen equipment includes rear radio speakers stolen from an unlocked car, floodlights, extension cords, car phone, tape recorder and cassette stereo.

A Chevy van was also broken into causing \$600 while the value of goods taken was \$700.

Attempted robbery

There was an attempted break and enter between Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at 16 Wilbur Street North in Acton. The potential intruders tried to enter by prying the front door, but they were unsuccessful. No items were stolen.

Car flips

The entire roof and hood of a 1980 Plymouth was damaged after a car flipped on the ice on Sideroad 22. A Terra Cotta woman lost control because of the icy road conditions. The vehicle slid off the road, down a bank and landed on its wheels facing in the opposite direction. The accident occurred about 6 kilometres from the Tenth Line.

Impaired driving

A 37-year-old male from Georgetown was charged with impaired driving Dec. 6 after being stopped by police. The car was pulled over on Delrex Boulevard near Maple Avenue. The driver will be in court Dec. 11.

Home theft

Burglars were quite thorough in making away with goods from an Acton area home Dec. 1. The lot 28, Con. 1 home had a door damaged where thieves entered. The intruders stole a television, microwave, clock radios and other items worth about \$2,000. The cost of fixing the door at the side of the house will be \$200.

Cars collide

The driver of a 1981 Mercury attempting to turn onto Maple Avenue collided with a Chevrolet travelling at about 50 kilometres per hour Dec. 1. Total damage to both cars was about \$3,000.

The driver of the Mercury was charged.

Hydro wires down

Hydro wires and a tree was knocked down in an incident involving a crash on Beaver and Credit Streets Dec. 4.

A 1982 truck was turning left onto Credit Street when the driver hit a low-lying tree which in turn brought down power lines. Estimated damage to the vehicle is \$800 while hydro damage is about \$300, according to police.

Wallet stolen

A wallet was stolen from an unlocked vehicle on Dayfoot Drive in Georgetown Dec. 10. The thief made away with \$500 in cash.

Foglights taken

Sometime after closing time at Capital Ford Sales Dec. 1, two fog lights were taken from a Ford Thunderbird on the lot. Total value of the heist was \$188.

Walkman gone

One unlucky student will be without music for awhile. A high school locker was broken into Dec. 2 in the afternoon and a Sony Walkman radio/cassette was stolen. The value of the Walkman is \$180.



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