

Former drag strip may be a "pond"

Residents near a proposed Limehouse subdivision say a 148-acre strip of land once used for drag racing could become "one big pond."

A numbered Ontario company, formerly Lyncean Investments Ltd., applied to the Town of Halton Hills to rezone a chunk of land dubbed "the drag strip property", once home of the Toronto International Raceway.

The company intends to build 51 homes on the surrounding property on the north side of Highway 7 bet-

ween the Fifth and Sixth Lines. The former drag strip property would be used for drainage, deputy town planner Bruce MacLean said at Tuesday's public meeting.

The builders have until August of next year to get draft approval for the proposed houses. The land up for rezoning could be included as the builder's contribution to town park space.

Nearby resident Bill Fox appeared at the public meeting. He asked for assurance that rezoning would protect the land beside his home. "The problem we have now

is motorbikes. And we have no control of that now because it's private property."

If the property is rezoned, and becomes as a play area in the future, as town staff suggested Tuesday, children would be playing "in one big pond," said resident Wayne Middleton. "That's all (the land) is going to be," he said.

The stream running through the old drag strip property is "overgrown" and can get backed up, said Bertha Fox, who lives beside the property.

The land is now used by anyone

who wants to ride horses or motorbikes, she said.

One resident asked the town to put restrictions on how the land would be used if rezoned as "inherent hazard" space.

"There should be some kind of blanket restriction or conditions put on it," said Dr. Robert Steen. "I don't think it should be carte blanche for the engineers to do what they want."

The results of the public meeting will help town staff in making a decision on approving rezoning of the drag strip property.

GLT looking for benefit night sponsors

The Georgetown Little Theatre is accepting applications from local groups wishing to sponsor a benefit night performance during the 1989-90 season. All applications must be made in writing and sent to the Georgetown Little Theatre Inc., 33 Stewarttown Road, R.R. 2 Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4S5, before Sept. 5.

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the **HERALD**
Outlook

FREE DISTRIBUTION SATURDAY, AUGUST 19th, 1989 24 PAGES

"Big spenders" should be taxed — Turner

By DONNA KELL
 Herald Staff

The big spenders - not the big income earners - should be hit with tax to curb the deficit, said Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner Wednesday night.

The Progressive Conservative MP held the second in a series of town hall meetings at Acton's town hall. The issues ran the gamut from abortion to government spending, but the proposed nine-per-cent Goods and Services Tax headlined the meeting.

The new tax, which will mean a decrease of one per cent in income tax for some earners and four rebate cheques a year for low-income families, will hit consumers the MP said.

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"You tax the big spenders. Not the people who work hard and see their paycheques eroded."

The deficit needs to be reduced, Mr. Turner told the over 40 people at the town hall meeting. "We've got a government that is grappling to save the country" while the deficit grows at an "appalling" rate of \$83 million a day, he said.

But Mr. Turner himself questioned Finance Minister Michael Wilson's tax system, proposed for January 1991 and including almost all goods and services. Groceries and medical items will be exempt from the tax.

"I'm not entirely sure that this is it," the MP said of Mr. Wilson's proposal. "I'm not sure we've got it right yet." But he added that the present system that taxes about 40

per cent of all manufactured goods at 13.5 per cent, is "unfair" and needs to be changed.

And he said he has more power to make changes as an MP than he did as a columnist with the Toronto Sun. "I led revolts against taxation - the same as what's happening now," he told the crowd. "When I criticized Michael Wilson, sure I tried my best to influence policy. You know where it got me. I got nowhere."

"If that's as far as I can go as a protester, maybe I can go further in the system."

Prices on goods should come down as the nine-per-cent tax is placed on goods inside the store where they are sold, Mr. Turner said.

But people at the town hall meeting asked what guarantee consumers would have. "If there's a company out there ripping off consumers, I'd be the first one there," the MP said.

Retailers will lower prices, he said. "If they don't do it voluntarily, you're going to see legislation."

At the insistence of one local resident, Mr. Turner said he would put forward a private members bill to protect consumers if no government policy is put in place.

Acton councillor Norm Elliott, present at the town hall meeting, said although 48 other countries in the world have a goods and services tax, the Canadian government is introducing the tax at too high a rate.

"Is nine-per-cent the proper level? Maybe not," the MP responded. "I've told Wilson I think it's too high. I think he could and should bring it down."

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Highway 7 collision

A 40-year-old Bellwood man was taken by ambulance to Georgetown District and Memorial Hospital where he was treated and released following this two-car collision on Highway 7 just west of Ontario Street in Georgetown Monday evening. The man

was driving the 1985 Ford Ranger shown in this photo. A 36-year-old Downsview man, driving a 1985 GMC was also involved in the accident. (Herald Photo: Donna Kell)

Beware of company offering prizes

Police are warning area business owners to watch for a document issued by a Vancouver company telling them they have won one of three prizes.

Police are currently trying to find out whether or not the notification is fraudulent, Detective Al McQueen of 11 Division in Georgetown says.

They are also concerned local business owners could be intimidated by the notification. Det.

McQueen said.

The Vancouver company stipulates if the winning company refuses the prize it is obligated to pay the "appropriate costs," he said. Police didn't reveal what these costs are.

Police first found out about the contest from the owner of a business near Milton who was a supposed winner.

As a winner, the owner was informed of the obligation to permit

the Vancouver company to use the name of the local company in any of its promotion, Det. McQueen said. The owner was also informed that refusing the prize and accompanying condition would mean the required payment of "certain costs," he said.

The company is unaware that it ever entered this contest. Det. McQueen said.

An investigation is ongoing.

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