

Beaumont Knitting Mill named historic site

By BEN DUMMETT
the Herald

The 115-year-old Beaumont Knitting Mill on Main Street in Glen Williams was designated as a "heritage district" under the Ontario Heritage Act by council Monday night.

"The mill is important (as a heritage building) because so often in southern Ontario, our industrial heritage is the first to go," Eric Connolly, a member of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC), told council in defence of the heritage

designation before the vote.

Rural Councillor Alf Spence said often Glen Williams finds itself at "war" with Georgetown over its historical buildings, but this building "would do a great deal to upgrade the area."

The oldest knitting mill in the area, the Beaumont Mill was in operation from about 1872 to 1987.

Mr. Connolly said the building's owner, Glen Williams resident Malcolm Black, plans to make similar renovations to the mill that were done to the nearby Apple Products building.

Mr. Black has applied for provincial funding to do restoration work on the mill but he can only become eligible if the mill is designated by the town as a "heritage district," a town staff report says.

Mr. Black still has to enter into an "easement agreement" with the town to fulfill the requirements for provincial funding. An easement agreement stipulates the types of changes that can be done to the buildings and restricts the owner's ability to demolish the building or parts of it.

The town didn't designate the building when the matter first

went before council in December. Council wanted to know whether the building encroached on the Main Street road allowance and whether the town had plans in the future to widen the public road allowance, the staff report says.

The report says that the mill doesn't encroach on the road allowance but it is situated very close to it.

It also said there is a town policy stating the road should be widened, but no date to do so is scheduled.

Acton Coun. Gerald Rennie asked Mr. Connolly whether it is impossible to reverse the designation

once approved.

Coun. Rennie expressed concern that if the town ever decided to widen Main Street it might be prevented because of the designation.

The town's staff report suggests that widening Main Street at the mill location might require the partial demolishing of that part of the building running along the street. But the report also says the designation makes any kind of demolition difficult.

Mr. Connolly said it would be possible only if the town changed the governing bylaw.

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MOE criticizes landfill proposal

By BRIAN MacLEOD
the Herald

Reclamation Systems Inc.'s proposal to put a landfill site in the Acton quarry has been strongly criticized by a technical report prepared by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

A MOE report obtained by the Herald examines seven crucial areas of the RSI proposal.

The report is highly critical of several areas including surface water impacts, groundwater, site design, land use, socio-economic impacts, blasting impacts and air quality.

The 68-page report released by the Environmental Assessment Branch will be incorporated into the final assessment of RSI's controversial proposal to build a landfill site capable of handling a total of 18-million tonnes of waste from Halton Hills and surrounding municipalities, possibly including Metro Toronto.

One of the key aspects of the report examines the quality of water in Black Creek. The ministry has consistently said it will not allow any further degradation of the water in Black Creek. Parts of the creek in Acton already fall well below government guidelines for water quality. "The proposed discharge of treated effluent into Black Creek (from the proposed sewage treatment plant at the dump) will exceed ministry discharge criteria in a highly sensitive section of the stream," the MOE says.

The MOE report cites a paragraph in the RSI report which says conditions are too "nutrient rich" in certain areas of Black Creek to provide a suitable habitat for brook trout. Yet RSI's proposal calls for discharge of treated sewage which is "nutrient rich" into areas immediately upstream of the brook trout spawning section. "It is not clear how this can have anything but a significant detrimental impact on the brook

trout population in Black Creek," the MOE report says.

RSI's study of groundwater in the area "has not demonstrated compliance" with standards set out by the ministry, the MOE says. The hydrogeological study lacks specific consideration of the impacts on nearby residential wells, according to the ministry. "In addition, some aspects of the interpreted site hydrogeology remain questionable," the ministry says.

RSI is proposing extensive engineering for the site but it has yet to address many of the concerns surrounding such engineered facilities, the ministry says.

Although RSI points to other engineered sites in the area, many of them are still relatively young sites and have not had to withstand the test of time, the MOE says.

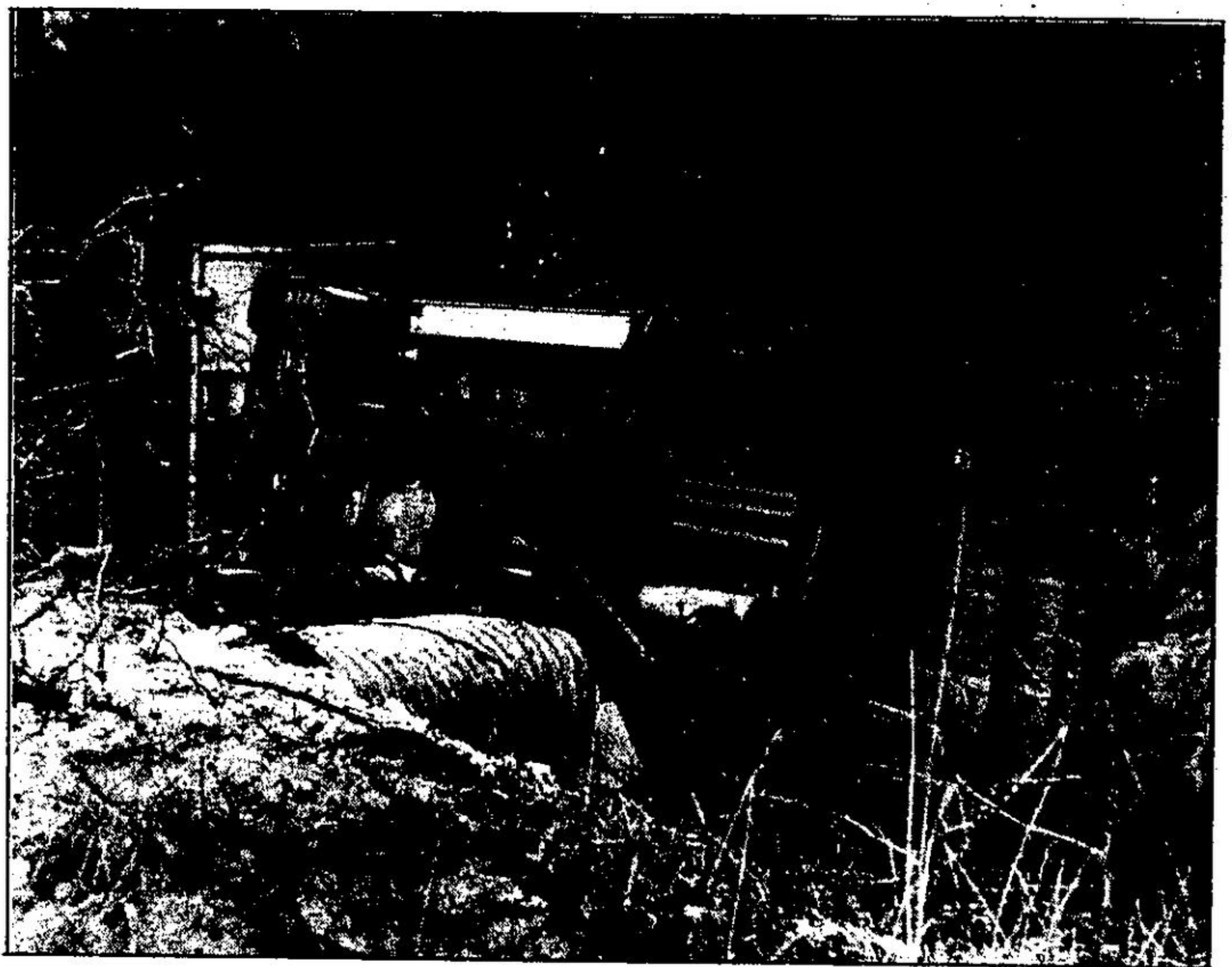
And the ministry has more concerns about the proposed sewage treatment plant for the site. Although a consultant for RSI said Black Creek could not handle another sewage treatment plant if it is located close to Acton, RSI's most recent proposal has moved the site for the proposed plant even closer to Acton than the original proposed location.

"The proponent should explain in detail why this location, which was apparently considered unacceptable before, is now considered acceptable," the MOE says.

The ministry also wants Reclamation Systems Inc. to make "more explicit commitments to mitigate environmental impacts on the nearby residences."

And RSI hasn't properly considered the effects of blasting on the proposed landfill site, the environment ministry says. Although RSI's studies have considered the effect of current blasting, it has not taken into account the effect of future blasting on the quarry floor or blasting from the proposed quarry immediately across the

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He walked away

The driver of this Ford pick-up truck climbed out of the driver's door after the vehicle had landed. The four-wheel drive pick-up truck went out of control and slid off the road around 8:15 a.m., Jan. 17, on Sideroad 27 near Terra Cotta. (Herald photo)

MP Turner doesn't like abortion bill

The current federal government abortion legislation is unacceptable in its present form, says Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner.

The new legislation is now before committee but if it comes to the legislature unchanged, "I won't be voting for it," Mr. Turner told about 100 people at a Town Hall meeting in Glen Williams Wednesday night.

Mr. Turner explained the bill is "pro-choice in pro-life language."

The legislation makes abortion a criminal offence that carries with it a two-year maximum prison sentence. But it is also a matter between a woman and her doctor. A woman can have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy if the doctor supports the woman's claim that her mental or physical health could be endangered by carrying the fetus to birth.

"Right now it's a wide open bill. It puts no control on abortion," he

says.

Mr. Turner wants the committee to make the legislation more restrictive on who is allowed to have an abortion.

Abortions should be permitted only when the health of a woman is a major concern. "I think there is a lot of room in society to concentrate more on adoption and most of the people who have phoned me on the issue have urged (this position)," he said.

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