

Lake Ontario Cement given reprieve by town

Pending the results of negotiations between Lake Ontario Cement officials and Halton Region over the reconstruction of Regional Road 9, the Town of Halton Hills has not yet laid charges of building without a town permit against the Halton Hills cement block plant.

The town's building inspector, Ron Shettel, said the town was to have laid charges under the Ontario Building Code against the plant, located at Regional Road 9 and Highway 25, on Aug. 2, and issue a stop work order. The town has decided to wait until negotiations between the Region and the cement plant end before issuing a stop work permit. He said it appeared the company and Halton Region were not going to settle a disagreement as to whether the company or the region would reconstruct the strip of Regional Road 9 which runs adjacent to the plant site.

However, Regional Commissioner of Public Works, Robert Moore, said negotiations with the current plant officials are pro-

gressing and said an agreement is expected to be reached by today (Wednesday).

Regional Road 9 must be reconstructed in conjunction with the plant being built, said Mr. Shettel, because of the expected increase in truck traffic that will result upon completion of the plant. The road's current state is inadequate to handle more traffic than the existing amount, he said.

Halton Hill Council approved the cement block construction on the condition that Halton Region was satisfied Regional Road 9 was reconstructed in accordance with the Region's standards.

Mr. Shettel said he was set to lay charges Tuesday as early as Friday morning, until officials from the Region's Public Works Department called him Friday afternoon and told him a deal between the Region and the company was pending.

Lake Ontario Cement originally had a tentative agreement with Halton Region that the Region's public works department would reconstruct the road at the com-

pany's expense, said Halton Region Commissioner of Public Works, Robert Moore. The company at that time, thought the cost of the road would be approximately \$400,000, he said. That figure was the initial estimate of only the reconstruction costs of the road itself. It didn't account for the cost of relocating utilities and buying some property, all of which must first happen in order that the road may be reconstructed, explained Mr. Moore.

When these additional costs were factored into the equation, Halton Region told the company it would need \$750,000. If the road cost less, Halton would reimburse the cement company the difference, said Mr. Moore.

Keith George, a Project manager for the cement company, said the company believed the \$750,000 figure was "too high" so it backed out of the tentative agreement it had with the Region.

"We wanted to try it, (reconstructing the road), ourselves," said Mr. George.

Mr. Moore said the Region was open to Lake Ontario Cement reconstructing the road as long as it met the Region's standards.

Mr. George believes the company can do the reconstruction cheaper than the Region's estimate because "We're, (the company), in the business of building roads," he said.

He acknowledged utilities might have to be relocated and property bought to reconstruct the road but he was still optimistic the company could do the reconstruction cheaper.

The plan for the cement block plant calls for the plant and office facilities on 23.7 acres of property.

Halton Hills farmers getting tax rebate

The province's 1990 farm tax rebate program is more equitable to Halton Hills farmers than it was last year, said the president of the Halton Federation of Agriculture, Harry Brander, Wednesday.

Unlike the 1989 version of the program, which pitted area farm owners against each other, this year's program fulfills the "original intent" of the program when it was started in 1970, said Mr. Brander.

The rebate program was designed to reimburse, that portion of the farm owners property taxes not applicable to town services. In other words, farm land doesn't need schools, police protection or fire service, explained Mr. Brander.

This year, as was the case in previous years, except 1989, all farm owners whose land produces a minimum of \$7,000 worth of produce will receive 75 per cent rebate for non-applicable municipal tax land and farm buildings, said Mr. Brander. This system is more equitable, he said, because the program doesn't discriminate against farm land owners who have significant outside incomes.

Last year the amount of rebate farmers received depended on how much they earned in outside income per year. That meant only those farmers whose land grosses at least \$12,000 in produce and made less than \$40,000 in outside income would be eligible for the full rebate. If a farm owner made between \$40,000 and \$60,000 in non-farm income, they were only eligible to receive the rebate minus five

per cent. Those farmers who made more than \$60,000 in non-farm income were ineligible for the rebate.

Mr. Brander argues this change in the program altered the whole intent of the program. "It wasn't a subsidy, it was there to correct an injustice in the tax system," he said.

Mr. Brander also predicted if the 1989 version was allowed to continue, some farm owners would have become discouraged and sold their land.

At the time the government introduced the 1989 version of the program the province's Ministry of Agriculture and Food argued that some farm owners who were previously receiving the rebate were not "bona fide" farmers.

But in a recent statement, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, David Ramsay, said that all owners of farm property in agriculture production should be treated equally. The program's focus is on land in agriculture production, he said.

Although satisfied with the current program, Mr. Brander said the system would be completely equitable if farmers received a 100 per cent rebate. But he predicted this wouldn't happen.

Jim Dandies continue with winning streak

By BETTY SOJKA

The Jim Dandies continued with their winning streak this week, by beating both the Marauders and ReMax. The two games were similar in the way the Dandies got a good lead early in the game, which protected the wins, when they had a couple of bad innings later on.

June Longstreet was unanimously voted Most Valuable Player on Thursday night's game, when she blasted ball after ball into the outfield, sending in those needed runs. June also excelled in right field where she speedily retrieved the balls coming her way.

Elaine Bowman was another one whose powerful hits made it difficult for both Marauders and ReMax to grapple, and achieved doubles for herself. Deep outfield was where Kathy Martin hit, to earn herself a homerun that knocked 2 other runners in. Kathy also made a spectacular running catch while playing centre field.

Thursday's game against ReMax was particularly exciting for the large group of spectators. Many outs were made with infield plays to first base, and a few at second when players tried to steal. The ladies are entered in two tournaments, with the first being on Aug. 10, 11, 12 in Georgetown.

The following weekend the Dandies will be in Hillsburg. It is hoped that their winning streak and

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strong hitting will carry through these tournaments. Maureen Halpenny will dress in a Jim Dandies uniform to join her former teammates for the Georgetown tournament, when she is up for a visit from her home in Smith Falls.

Just a reminder for folks to buy their tickets for the Beach Party Dance on August 18th. Prizes will be given out for the best beach outfits. At a cost of \$7.50 per person tickets can be purchased at the Ballinafad General Store.

Anyone wishing to receive the Ballinafad monthly newsletter should contact Betty Sojka at 853-3691 or leave your name and address at the Ballinafad General Store.

The Hall Board is currently evaluating quotes received to paint the community centre. It is hoped that the hall can be painted during the latter part of August. Call Karen Smith at 853-2771 if you are interested in giving a quote.

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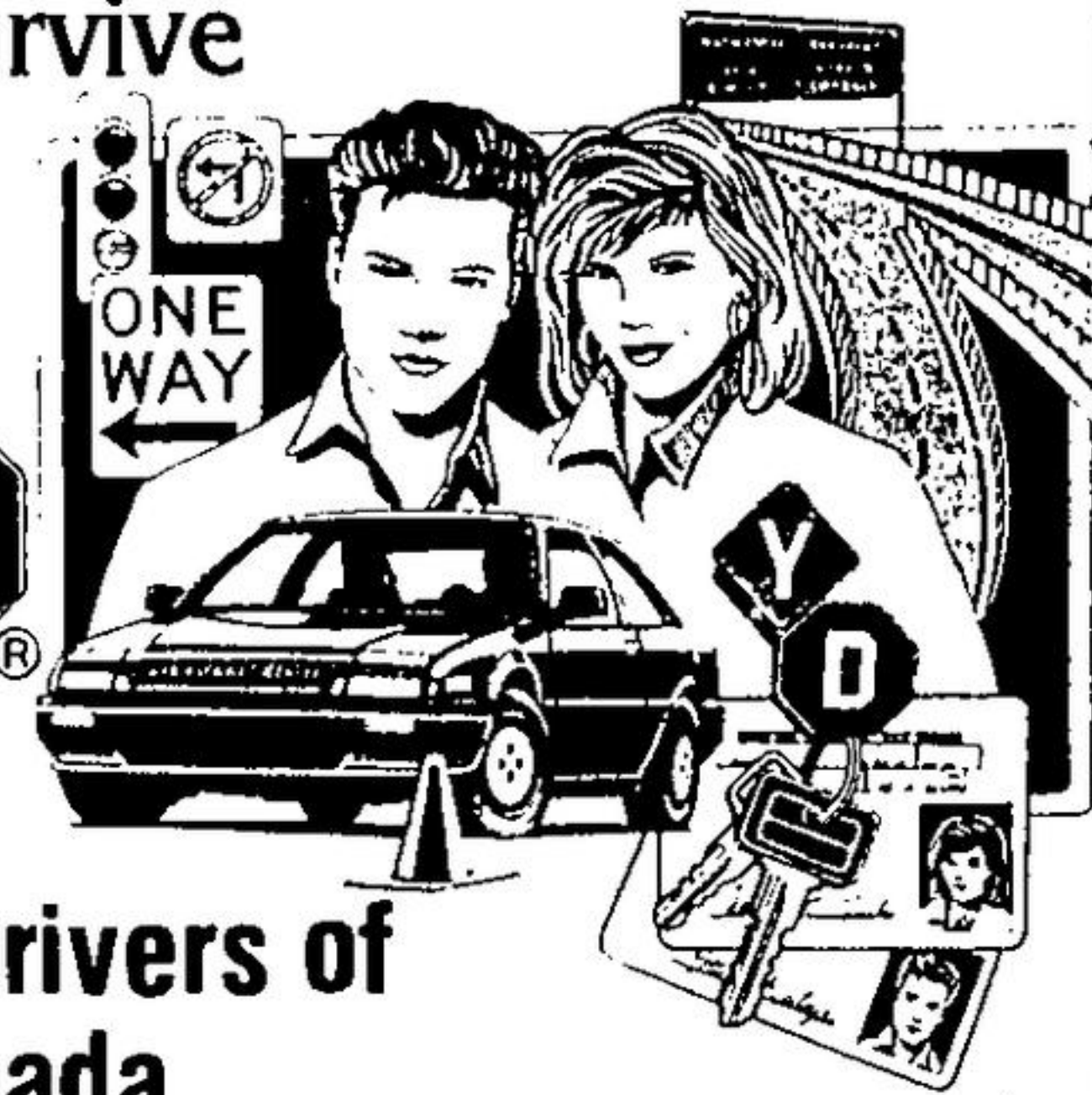
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