

Tempers flare as ratepayers and council clash

As tempers flared between Town councillors and members of local ratepayer group, Furiously Opposed to Acton Dumping, (F.O.A.D.), during a General Committee meeting Monday, the rules of procedure quickly disappeared prompting one councillor to say the police should be called in.

Town Coun. Pam Johnston said, "I suggest we call the police," in response to F.O.A.D. members accusing Town Administrator Dan Costea of being a liar.

The zoo-like atmosphere arose when F.O.A.D. member Gord Vandevalk said Mr. Costea wasn't following a Council resolution concerning the reconstruction of the Third Line in the area of the Acton quarry.

The resolution, approved Sept. 30, calls for Town staff to request the province's Ministry of Natural Resources make the reconstruction of the Third Line an integral part of the replacement site plan for the quarry.

F.O.A.D. members want the Third Line reconstructed through the quarry in accordance with a 1974 agreement, believing the reconstruction project will prevent the quarry from being converted into a dump.

In a letter Mr. Costea sent to the MNR, dated Oct. 15, the Administrator refers to the reconstruction project in connection with a rehabilitation plan for the quarry, instead of a replacement plan.

Following the meeting, Mr. Costea said the use of word rehabilitation instead of replacement in his letter to the MNR should only be interpreted in terms of semantics. The words are interchangeable, said Mr. Costea.

Mr. Vandevalk pointed out F.O.A.D. members insisted the word replacement be used when it first suggested a resolution concerning the Third Line issue be passed.

The use of the word rehabilitation instead of replacement could mean the difference between stopping the Acton dump proposal and living with a landfill, said Mr. Vandevalk.

"The wording of the correspondence is in keeping with the advice of the Town solicitor, and I would prefer to take the advice of our



solicitor over Mr. Vandevalk's," responded Mr. Costea.

Coun. Joe Hewitt said F.O.A.D. members were simplifying the situation by focusing on two words. He suggested a meeting be set up between the Town solicitor and F.O.A.D.

Coun. Rob Heaton interjected, "we have had so many meetings; there have been committees and more committees on this issue. I want to know why we haven't acted on this (issue)?"

Angry F.O.A.D. member Diane van de Valk added, "when we stop this dump it will be no thanks to you, (Council)."

Decision deferred

Halton Hills General Committee recommended Monday the issue of closing St. Helena Road in Silver Creek be deferred once again.

Some residents have suggested the road be closed to prevent dirt-bikers, snowmobilers and partiers from gaining access to the road and vandalizing the area. Other property owners oppose the road closure because St. Helena Road is the only viable way of gaining access to their property.

Earlier this month, council deferred the decision in order that the residents may be able to resolve their differences.

Town staff recommended Monday the road be closed for a two-year period to determine the effects of the road closure.

However, General Committee, which is comprised of councillors, learned it may face a possible lawsuit if the road is closed. Com-

mittee members recommended the issue be deferred until staff meets with the Town lawyer to determine the Town's legal rights.

Development approved

Halton Hills General Committee recommended Monday the Acton Royal Canadian Legion be permitted to develop a property at Mill Street and Cobblehill Road in Acton.

The proposal calls for 60 single family lots and a three-storey, 57 unit seniors apartment building.

The recommendation goes before Town Council for final approval this Monday.

Acton Coun. Norm Elliott said, "one of the most difficult things for Council is to assess the merits of a development.... but I can honestly say I feel good about this project."

Public meeting held

Approximately 50 people attended a public meeting Monday to protest a rural estate planned subdivision proposal for Sideroad 22 and the Milton-Halton Hills Town Line.

The proposal calls for 20 residential lots to be established.

Residents objected to the project because rural areas should be maintained; there could be insufficient water to service the new lots, and the increased traffic resulting from the development could create a safety hazard for children already living in the area.

Staff will now write a report on the proposal incorporating the public comments and upon completion present it to Council for consideration. The report isn't expected to go before Council until the new year.

Request rejected

Town General Committee decided Monday not to fulfill a request by Norval resident Kathy Gastle to amend the zoning bylaw governing a Norval Guelph Street property.

Ms. Gastle said Norval residents want the zoning bylaw governing 503 Guelph Street changed to prevent expanded commercial development on the property. Ms. Gastle said commercial

development is inappropriate for such a scenic and historically important location.

Committee rejected the idea of changing the bylaw, after Planning Director Ian Keith said any such action could send the Town to an Ontario Municipal Board Hearing.

Development freeze?

Because of public concerns raised about the piecemeal type of development going on in the area of Steeles Avenue and Winston Churchill Boulevard in Halton Hills,

Town councillors are considering employing a development freeze in the area.

General Committee, which is comprised of Town councillors, directed staff to investigate the possibility of a development freeze.

If a development freeze was imposed, it would only be lifted once a comprehensive development study was done on the area, committee members decided.

Councillors will make a final decision on the proposal at this Monday's Council meeting.

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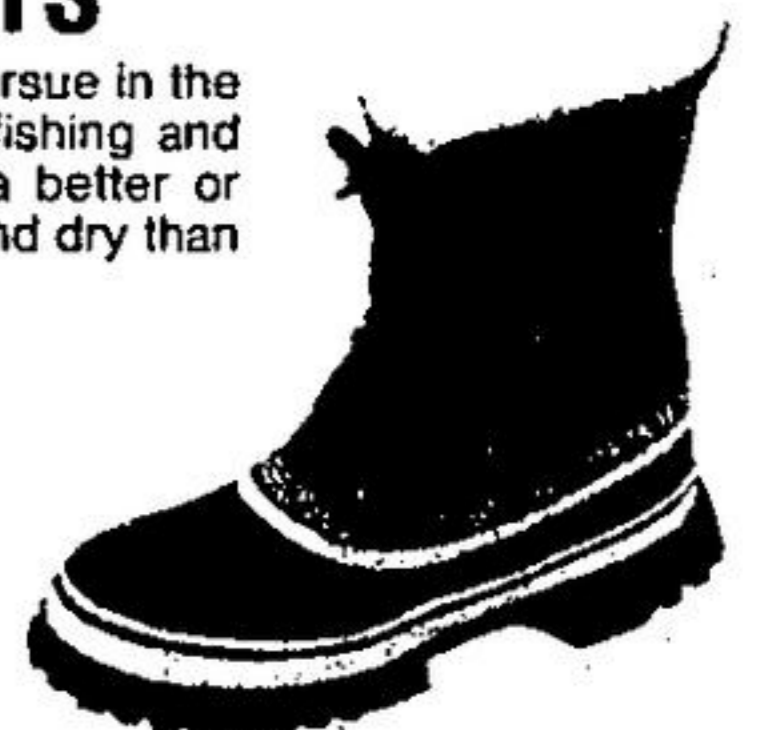
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Photo contest winners

In an attempt to record the Town's scenic beauty, Halton Hills Camera Club held a photography contest entitled "Capture the Hills 91" for local shutterbug enthusiasts. Contest winners were honored Monday at a special ceremony at the Halton Hills Civic Centre. Pictured above, (front row, left to right), Jane Timleck, honorable mention; Michelle

Gelock, special award winner; Karen Lowe, third prize. (Back row, left to right), Ray Nichol, second place; David Briggs, Mayor's choice; Bruce Cameron, honorable mention; Sam Armstrong, first prize; Myles Gilson, honorable mention. (Herald Photo)

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