

# Council determined to sell Old Stone School

Halton Hills Council showed no willingness Monday to bend from its earlier decision to sell Acton's Old Stone School to the Halton Region Board of Education.

By reaffirming their position, councillors rejected a request from the group, Heritage Acton to postpone the sale until it, along with other Acton-based groups, considered whether they could use the building and possibly renovate it.

Selling the school to the board represents a good deal for both sides, Acton councillor Gerald Renie told his colleagues.

Not only does the town get \$80,000, but also, once the board demolishes the building, as planned, Robert Little Public School will have access to much needed parking space.

Acton Coun. Norm Elliott defended the sale saying Acton residents must realize, "they can't have it all" especially given the town budget constraints.

Coun. Elliott pointed out the three Acton councillors support the approval of the new Acton arena and

the conversion of the Old Fire Hall into a seniors centre.

It's unrealistic to expect town council to reject \$80,000 and approve two large capital projects this year, said Coun. Elliott.

Both Coun. Elliott and Coun. Renie said, until recently, neither had heard from anyone in the community for the past four or five years expressing interest in saving the building.

## Surprised mayor

Town Mayor Russ Miller seemed surprised when council decided Monday, without discussion, to hold off selling the property at 125 James Street in Georgetown.

Through a letter that went before council Monday, the Georgetown Business Improvement Area requested the town hold off selling the property until the BIA board had discussed with the town the possibility of using the property for parking.

Commenting on the lack of discussion, Mayor Miller said, "the



property was held for a year while the town carried out a parking study." The study showed the property wasn't suitable for use as a parking lot.

## Proclamations

Town council Monday declared two proclamations.

Council proclaimed the month of March as Red Cross Month in

Halton Hills and declared April 5-11 as National Wildlife Week.

## Revised application

Town council learned Monday Burlington-based developer Zupet and Associates have submitted a revised development application concerning their Maple Avenue property in Georgetown.

The original proposal called for two 15 storey condominiums to be built on the property at 327, 333 and 339 Maple Avenue.

However, under the revised application the developer is planning to build one, five-to-10 storey tiered apartment building near the rear of the property, and 39, three storey stacked townhouses at the front of the property.

## Councillor speaks out

In response to an advertisement that recently appeared in the local press concerning the Acton dump proposal, Acton Coun. Norm Elliott said Monday town Mayor Russ Miller doesn't need to be reminded that the public opposes the dump proposal.

The advertisement was taken out by local group Furiously Opposed to Acton Dumping, (FOAD).

It called on all residents to telephone Mayor Miller to try to stop the dump proposal by forcing the quarry owners to reconstruct the Third Line through the quarry.

Mayor Miller said the town solicitor is trying to develop a strong legal case in support of the Third Line reconstruction project.

He said, there is no point going to court unless the town has a good chance of winning the case.

Mayor Miller also said the town solicitor has been in touch with FOAD's lawyer to explain the town's legal strategy and the group's lawyer agrees with the town.

## Article questioned

At Monday's council meeting, town Coun. Pam Johnston questioned parts of an article appearing in the Herald's Sunday Town Buyer.

The story centred on comments by town Coun. Bill Robson that former Halton Hills Regional Councillor Joe Hewitt shouldn't be working for a developer with interests in town.

The story's lead says the new town committee set up to encourage local development got off to a rocky start.

However Coun. Johnston, who attended the meeting, countered by saying, in her opinion the meeting was very positive.

Coun. Johnston said the meeting was positive because developer Larry Law, who has hired Mr. Hewitt as a consultant, showed committee members examples of new and innovative ways for housing.

As for the developer, Ms. Johnston described Mr. Law as, "very cooperative and approachable."

In response, Coun. Robson agreed the meeting went well, and said Mr. Law is an honest and straightforward individual.

However, the story's focus was on Mr. Hewitt working for Mr. Law so soon after being defeated as a regional councillor, added Coun. Robson.

# CVCA offering land owners conservation plan for properties

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority is offering watershed land owners of 20 acres or more (5 to 10 acres in special cases) a detailed conservation plan for their properties at a real bargain!

"The plan is a detailed hard covered book written specifically for each property but does not obligate land owners to follow any recommendations," says C.V.C.A. Forester Bob Baker. We do an in depth inventory of the flora and fauna on the property, including woodlot inventory, soil sampling, past glacial activity, wildlife inventory, wetlands, watercourses ponds and problem areas land owners might want us to address."

A background on the history of the property and title search is performed to help understand how properties have been developed. Regulations and designations of sensitive areas are outlined for each land owner.

"Based on our inventory we recommend how best to manage the property from a holistic and systematic approach to improve water quality, erosion and flood control, wildlife habitat and generally encourage good land stewardship practices," says Baker.

Inventory of lands is performed in the spring and summer with books delivered before Christmas. Only few plans can be carried out each year and prices

range from \$350. to \$500. depending on acreage.

"This is very much a tool designed to educate land owners and to show how their property fits into the broader watershed picture. By having a conservation plan completed, we hope more appreciation would be given to the property from a conservation/environmental point of view and should the landowner consider improvements, it is hoped first consideration would be given to the recommendations," says Baker.

For more information about having a Conservation Plan carried out please call the Bob Baker at the Credit Valley Conservation Authority 1-800-668-5557.



## Helping hands

Ed Paterson Memorial Dart Tournament organizers Grant Richardson (middle) and Dave Paterson (right) donated the proceeds of this year's

tournament, \$2,000, to the Heart and Stroke Foundation last week. Accepting on behalf of the foundation was area co-ordinator Mary Goodfellow.

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