

Councillor laments levelling of beloved centuries-old home

By CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer



Trees around the 1870s home at 127 Mountainview Rd. N. were cut down Thursday. Photo by Ted Brown

At this time last week, a century home, surrounded by tall mature trees, graced 127 Mountainview Rd. N. By Friday, the house was rubble and the trees were flattened.

It was in the words of one citizen, “a moonscape”.

The 1870s Georgian home, had been the family home of Councillor Ann Lawlor and Myles Lawlor for 25 years. Last year she and her ex-husband, negotiated a deal to sell the property, and developer, Ernie Rinomato of Country Homes took possession in June 2012.

In March 2012, a Heritage Halton Hills meeting was convened to consider a request for demolition of the house.

On the advice of her personal lawyer, Ann Lawlor declared a conflict of interest on the matter, stayed out of all discussions, did not attend the meeting, nor did she vote on the minutes of the meeting when ratified by council.

“I loved that house,” Lawlor said. “As a heritage champion I was very sad to see it torn down. I did the best I could so that the community could enjoy its heritage objects. ... It was my way of making the best of a difficult situation.”

Lawlor salvaged items from the property, donating them to the community.

For example, the home’s marble fireplace will be installed in the Archives room of the new Halton Hills Cultural Centre and Library. Stained glass and barn wood for trim will also be incorporated into the new library. The property’s garden gate and flagstone will be used as part of a garden at Devereaux House, of which Lawlor is still co-ordinator.

“We tried pretty hard to find special places for the special features of the property,” said Lawlor.

The Lawlors had an opportunity when the adjacent Stewart McLaren townhomes were being built to sell the property (already designated as medium density) to that developer, but decided to keep it as a single family residence.

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Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and Town of Halton Hills By-law 2003-0032 regarding the following temporary road closure for the purpose of the following community event:

bikeit TO THE FARMER’S MARKET IN DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES FOR EVENT

Saturday, September 15, 7:00 am to 1:00 pm

- 1) Main St. S. from Maple Ave. to Church St.
- 2) Park Ave. from Market St. to 35 Park Ave.
- 3) Church St. between Market St. and Main St. S.

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