

Elevator operating at Ascot, but headaches continue for tenants

By JANET BAINE

At approximately 5 p.m. Tuesday afternoon the elevator at the Royal Ascot apartment building was back in service.

"I probably shouted for joy when I saw it," resident Cecil Jordan said. "Our Christmas is going to be a much happier one. Getting presents up the stairs (was difficult) and a lot of residents have guests coming for Christmas. It'll be a much brighter and happier Christmas."

Residents have been without elevator service in the seven storey building since Dec. 6, when Northern Elevator Service removed a computer chip and refused to replace it until their bill of \$60,000 was paid.

Company President Barry Pletch said the elevator became operational after the company received a letter promising \$28,000 on or before Jan. 7, with the rest of the money to follow when the second elevator goes into operation. It hasn't been operating because some work is still required on the building, he said.

Pletch blames Sam Diamond, the receiver-manager of the building and Prenor Trust, the company who financed the project, with the inconvenience to residents.

"What they ended up doing after eleven or twelve days of aggravation for tenants could have been settled a year ago or on the first day," he said. All they had to do was pay the bill.

Mayor Russ Miller will also have a better Christmas because the elevator is back in gear. The Royal Ascot fiasco has taken more of his time over the past few weeks than any other Town issue, he said. He called it a catastrophe.

"I just damn our system when our system can hold people at ransom and nobody is responsible," Miller said. "The condominium act has to be tightened up to give rights to prospective buyers. I've been after the Liberal and NDP governments about that."

Miller said purchasers have suffered because plans went awry in other developments in Halton Hills. More money should be held in trust so that if a builder doesn't pay up or complete the building, all the work can be carried out and bills can be paid anyway, he said.

Jordan said residents are grateful to Miller and town staff for assisting them in their battle to get the elevator running again.

"You'd think these people were

residents of the building the way they've put a lot into helping us," he said.

Both Miller and Jordan said having the elevator running doesn't end residents problems, but it is a major obstacle overcome.

The building has been plagued with problems which have made life difficult for residents. Jordan said even little things, like trying to

have the garbage put out so it can be picked up, have been difficult.

A stop-work order on the facilities building was lifted earlier this week, and town engineers are working with engineers hired to see that the building is completed, Miller said.

All residents are paying a phantom mortgage of \$1,500 to \$2,400 a

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Generous community ...

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happening, but we hoped it wouldn't," he said.

On Thursday at press time, monetary donations had reached 75 per cent of the objective of \$35,000, Budgell said.

"That doesn't mean anybody is going to go without, since the fundraising at Christmas time always has excess funds to meet demands on family services throughout the year." Christmas is the only time the Salvation Army goes to the community to raise money.

While the Salvation Army co-ordinates the appeal, numerous service groups and individuals help. In Georgetown, all the work is carried out by the Lioness Club, through the Good Neighbor pro-

gram.

Budgell estimates each family will get a food hamper valued at about \$75 in addition to toys for children.

He thinks services offered by Halton Hills' two food banks and the Salvation Army complement each other.

"They provide help on a monthly basis. In December, we lighten the load of the food banks," he said. "I can't speak for Georgetown, but in Acton the food bank has worked with us and referred people to us."

Acton Food Share will be open Monday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and then will be closed until early in the New Year.

Georgetown's Love in Christ Food Bank will be closed between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Council again rejects RSI's landfill/quarry proposal

By STUART JOHNSTON

Once again, Town Council has rejected Reclamation System Inc.'s efforts to put landfill into the Acton Quarry.

Council recommended Monday night that the Minister of Environment hold off on its assessment of RSI's proposal because "it leaves the substantial issues previously identified by the Town of Halton Hills unresolved."

In addition, it requested that the MOE grant intervenor funding to the Town in order to conduct a "more detailed review of RSI's Environmental Assessment...prior to the completion" of the government review.

RSI had recently resubmitted its application in an effort to address the numerous environmental concerns raised by the Town, POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) and other government agencies over its landfill proposal.

However, council rejected the new addenda because it considers the report "inadequate and incom-

plete," according to the Town solicitor's report.

"We conclude from our review that the Environmental Assessment process devised and utilized by RSI has not resulted in the consideration of any matters of substance," the report continued.

"As well, the level of detail and technical investigation is not sufficient to satisfy RSI's request for a certificate of approval under the Environmental Protection Act...We believe that it is inappropriate for the government to conclude its review of this landfill proposal."

Correction

It was erroneously stated in last week's article entitled "Mayor optimistic about Town's future..." that the former development corporation Enterac is known as the Halton Hills Development Corporation. Enterac is now, in fact, called Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. The Week End regrets the error.

Harold St. residents want rezoning on wooded lot

By STUART JOHNSTON

A group of Georgetown residents petitioned Town Council Monday night to preserve a wooded lot near their homes.

On behalf of 147 of his neighbors, David Porter of Harold St. asked Town Council to rezone an open parcel of land in order to prohibit future development. The land is located between Harold St. and the Fairgrounds in Georgetown.

Council referred the matter to the Planning Department for a report.

The small wooded area was conveyed to the Town as parkland back in the 1970s when the Harold St. subdivision was built.

Residents fear that since the land is currently zoned R3, development of single family homes could legally occur.

They requested a site-specific zoning prohibiting the construction of any structure, in order to preserve the land in its natural, wooded state.

"If this land is sold to be a part of

a residential development, it would go against the purpose of the Town receiving the land as originally planned," Porter told council. "A site-specific zoning would more accurately reflect its present uses."

Wood stove woes

Halton Hills firefighters responded to two separate fires caused by wood stoves earlier this week.

Late Tuesday morning they were called to a Limehouse home after a small fire ignited in the stove's chimney. They quickly doused the flames, but no damage occurred.

The owner was advised to get the pipes cleaned and checked, according to the fire department.

A second chimney fire occurred northeast of Georgetown Wednesday evening, but the owner had extinguished the fire before firefighters arrived.

He was advised by the fire department to contact the Fire Prevention Officer regarding the installation of wood stoves.



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Police Beat Mischief charge

A 28-year-old Georgetown resident was charged with mischief after he smashed a window during an argument with a woman in a rural Georgetown home on Wednesday. Damage to the window is estimated at \$100. The man was held in custody for a bail hearing in Milton on Thursday.

Husband assaulted

A 46-year-old Acton woman was charged with assault after she slapped her common-law husband several times during an argument Wednesday, according to police. She is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 14.

Break and enter

Halton Regional Police are investigating the break-in of several trailers located in a trailer park on the First Line in Acton sometime overnight Tuesday. Two trailer doors were damaged during the break-ins, causing approximately \$600 total damage. Nothing of "significant value" was removed from the trailers, according to police.