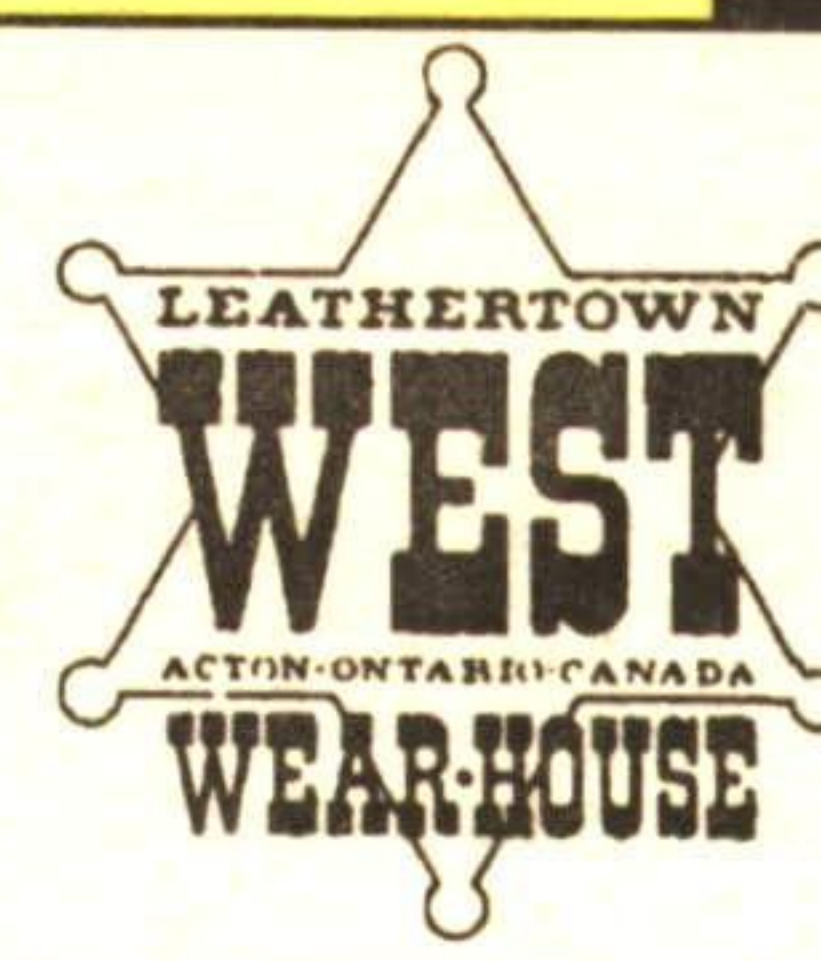


WEEKEND

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 1992 - VOLUME 8 - ISSUE 19 - 40 PAGES - 50¢ + G.S.T.

News

Digest

Minor injuries

A 6-year-old Danville Ave., Acton boy received only minor scrapes and bruises when he rode his bicycle out in front of a vehicle driven by an Acton man on Main St., Acton, Friday afternoon. Police report that the driver couldn't stop in time to miss the cyclist. The driver was not injured.

Police investigating

Halton Regional Police are investigating an accident that occurred at Guelph St. and Alcott Dr. in Georgetown shortly after 8 p.m. last Friday. At press time police could provide only a few details on the accident, that involved two vehicles, one driven by a Georgetown woman, the other by a Cheltenham woman. Two Georgetown residents suffered minor injuries in the accident and the Cheltenham woman received a broken ankle and cuts around her eye. Her little sister wasn't injured.

Cyclist breaks leg

A 30-year-old Hornby man was "knocked into the ditch" by a car while he was riding his bike on Derry Rd. August 10.

Rodney Matchett of RR1 Hornby fractured his leg and suffered a concussion after a 1988 Ford Mustang "hit the back of the bike head on," said Halton police sergeant Dan Gheller.

Both vehicles were travelling westbound on the north side of the road just west of Sixth Line when the collision occurred at 5 p.m.

A 24-year-old Burlington man has been charged with failing to turn out to the left when overtaking the bicycle, and with having improper tires on his car.

The injured cyclist was taken by ambulance to Milton District Hospital before being transferred to St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

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'Splash' landing

Little Erin Baumeister, 2 of Cameron St., Acton finds the tire swing out back her home a great place to play as she enjoys a break in the summer weather. Hopefully the weatherman will cooperate over the next couple of weeks to allow wee Erin more time on the swing.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Ratepayers oppose rural estate homes

By STUART JOHNSTON

Staff writer

There is "absolutely no doubt" that the rural area north of Georgetown contains prime agricultural land that should not be developed into subdivisions, the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) heard this week.

Beverly Agar, an agricultural land use specialist and consultant, disputed earlier testimony by another agricultural specialist who argued farmland along the Eighth Line north is in poor quality.

The OMB is reviewing an application by Beechbrooke Homes for 20 rural estate houses on the Eighth Line, south of the Erin-Halton Hills boundary. The 63-acre parcel is owned by Kent and Lois McClure. However, the Hickory Falls Ratepayers Association objected to the proposal arguing the subdivision will detract from the rural character of the area and will affect water/land quality.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission is also opposing the proposal, because the property is designated as a natural area under the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

The hearing began at the Civic Centre almost two weeks ago, and is expected to wrap up sometime this week.

Agar, hired by the ratepayers to review the McClure property and surrounding areas to determine the suitability of the land for farming, testified Wednesday that there is "an excellent level of crop production ability in the soils." Her testimony disputes earlier claims by the McClure's own agricultural specialist, David Cressman, that the land cannot support good farming because of its poor qualities.

"Having viewed the McClure property (and) listened to the testimony of Mr. Cressman...I am not convinced the property is as poor in quality as his report indicates," she said. "This is farmland — there is absolutely no doubt in my mind."

Agar pointed out that farming — from cattle, horses to crops — is abundant in much of the properties surrounding the McClure's, noting that portions of the McClure lands have also been used for growing hay.

Agar argued that a subdivision so close to farms violates part of the Ontario foodland guidelines, and therefore should not be permitted. It was her opinion that residents of rural subdivisions do not respect agricultural operations. Typically, she added, people end up trespassing on the farm, damage crops, frighten livestock and complain about noise, dust and smell from the farms.

"You cannot justify estate residential homes on prime agricultural land," she said. "I say that based on my experience as a land use specialist that the ministry (of agriculture and food) will not accept such proposals."

Vandalism spree

The police station on Guelph St. was one of five Georgetown area locations to be hit in a spray paint vandalism spree that occurred overnight Wednesday and Thursday.

Police report that at about 11:50 p.m. Wednesday an area man ran into the station to report that he had just seen a man spray paint the front of 11 Division. He told police he saw the man run off behind the neighboring arena, but when police checked the man was gone. The witness said the vandal was about 6' tall, with a thin build and long dark hair. He was wearing blue jeans.

The graffiti had been removed from the station by the next morning.

Other locations that were hit included Georgetown Post Office on Maple Ave., where two vans were painted; a gas station at Guelph St. and Sinclair Ave.; and two businesses on Armstrong Ave.

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