

Acton not likely to be included in new '905' area code

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

The chance of Acton being included in the NEW 905 area code doesn't look promising.

Una MacNeil, communications manager at Bell Canada, says that such a change would cause several problems. Halton Hills council made the request to Bell last month to have Acton switched to 416 and then to the 905 area when

Georgetown makes the switch in October.

"If we extended it to one community several others would want to be included also," said MacNeil. That would lead to a depletion of the numbers in the already cramped 416 area code. The new area code 905 will apply to communities surrounding Metro Toronto. She added if Acton and others were included in the new 905 area code, it would "result in an earlier than

planned exhaust of that area code."

MacNeil added including Acton in the 905 (416) area code would be a very costly option, and part of that cost would have to be picked up by the town.

"If Bell was to include Acton in the area code a number of conflicts would arise. The 853 exchange is already in use in Newmarket, so approximately 4,500 customers in Acton would have to get used to a new seven-digit number."

MacNeil said the 416 area code wouldn't make any difference for Acton callers in terms of local calls, because local calling already exists between the two communities.

"Municipal boundaries have never matched up with exchange boundaries. Bell strives for exchanges that are real and recognizable in the field, such as highways, rivers and hydro/gas transmission and rail lines. They often

create an actual barrier to the extension of Bell network facilities as well."

MacNeil added all of the equipment is already in place to serve the current boundaries.

Terry Jackson of Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce is in the midst of conducting a survey of Acton businesses. "Of the 24 surveyed so far, 11 have said it would not adversely affect them, and 13 have said it would," said Jackson.

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News

Digest

Still hopeful

Steve Dawkins, president of the olde Hide House, says the company has filed a formal notice of intent under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, to develop a restructuring proposal. The notice was filed June 22.

"I am cautiously optimistic we will be able to salvage something from the situation," said Dawkins.

The olde Hide House, Jack Tanner's, Flight-Line and Leathertown West Warehouse closed pending financial restructuring on June 15, resulting in layoffs to most of the company's employees.

Dawkins would not comment on the possibility of the Hide House reopening in the future but added "within three to four weeks from now, we will have a better idea as to the probability of any number of things."

Still investigating

The Halton Hills Fire Department has estimated damage to the Hollywood Tavern to be \$250,000. The cause of the fire is still under investigation by the Ontario Fire Marshal's office.

Twenty-five firefighters were on the scene from 9:15 p.m. to 3:40 a.m. to control the blaze on the first and second levels of the 140 year old building.

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Birthday Bash

Candice Christie, 6, of Terra Cotta found the Canada Day bears almost irresistible as she attended the celebrations at Georgetown Golf and Country Club. Proud Canadians from across

Halton Hills also celebrated Canada's 126th birthday in Glen Williams and in Acton with the Halton Hills firefighters' fireworks display. More photos page 6.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Seniors funding gets axe

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

Despite Les Mellish's attempt to persuade council members not to eliminate funding this year to both Acton and Georgetown seniors, council upheld the budget cuts passed in last week's committee meeting.

At Monday's council meeting council voted in favor of slashing a \$32,000 capital contribution for the Acton Seniors Centre project and \$14,500 from the Georgetown Seniors Centre. The latest round of budget cuts were sparked by the provinces expenditure control plan.

"Seniors centres are a valid and necessary part of the life of a healthy community," said Mellish, of the Georgetown and District Seniors Association. "All the other communities in this world class Halton Region each have one or more seniors centres. What is wrong with Halton Hills, are we third class?"

Mellish added if the Georgetown seniors had gotten their \$14,500 they would have been able to accept one of the commercial property locations they had been considering for a centre. "It would have filled some vacant business property and helped a business enterprise in a time of need," said Mellish.

Mellish said if a special assessment had been used to pay for the fight against the RSI proposal which would have left more than enough to fund seniors centres in Halton Hills.

"If you go ahead and cut out this \$14,500 from the 1993 budget, it seems you will destroy any possibility of seniors getting into a seniors centre in Georgetown this year," said Mellish.

Pat Giguere, of the Acton Seniors Centre Committee, told council members while she was disappointed by the funding cuts for Acton seniors, she understood why council had to support them.

"I hope our dream (for an Acton Seniors Centre) will come true in the near future," said Giguere.

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