

MacNab battles Reed in land dispute

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Last year Reed hired Mayer, Poulton and Associates Inc. to undertake an archaeological examination of the burial ground property.

The examination revealed there were graveshafts on the property, and since no plot plan was available the report recommended construction excavation of the property be monitored for human skeletal remains. The report also stated in all likelihood there were still people buried there.

"If any are found appropriate notification procedures should be followed," said the report.

MacNab feels there are still people buried on the property, including his relatives.

"Neighbors were buried there, so were children and Indians," said MacNab. He adds there is no record of the burials of MacNabs moved to Hillcrest cemetery, and records of the MacNab burial ground were reportedly stolen in the 1940s.

The ownership issue has been resolved to some degree.

During the application for subdivision process it was determined by Brian Blacklock, title examiner with Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations that Reed was the owner of the burial ground.

Blacklock said in determining ownership of property a search 40 years back is conducted at the land registry office.

"We go back in title for 40 years and look for encumbrances such as mortgages, liens or anything filed," said Blacklock.

Since official ownership was established Reed has received certificates of approval from the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to close

two portions of the property as a cemetery.

"Closing of a cemetery means the lands are no longer classed as a cemetery," said Cora dela Cruz, deputy registrar, Cemeteries Act. "The owner of the lands has to re-register them just as any other lands."

Dela Cruz said the portions that have been closed can be built on, but the unclosed portion, in this case a small portion at the rear of the property, can't be built on.

Reed says he will leave that portion of the property intact.

"I will continue to leave it the way it always has been."

MacNab says the piece of property Reed is leaving, is inaccessible to the public. The Norval Women's Institute has said they would be interested in erecting a cairn on the burial ground.

"There was never any access before. In the past anyone who went on the property was trespassing," said Reed.

MacNab wants the town of Halton Hills to take over responsibility for the entire burial ground, because it is a pioneer cemetery.

"There is not much we can do now. It's up to the town to take the initiative and live up to its obligations under the cemeteries act," said MacNab.

"Under the Cemeteries Act if the cemetery is abandoned by the owners, then the municipality, property owner or registrar for cemeteries can apply to the courts to have the municipality take it over," said dela Cruz.

Norval councillor Cathy Gastle said she would like to see the town designate the property as a cemetery, and plans to bring the matter up at council Monday night.

Good turnout to candidates' meeting in Acton

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However, incumbent Turner was the target of criticism from many members of the audience. One questioner asked Turner how he could run in the last election on an anti-GST platform and once elected, was not only in favor of it, but "to add insult to injury, is now the Lord Collector."

"I did not run on an anti-GST platform," Turner rebutted, adding he was able to accept the GST because the government made changes to it and agreed to put all the GST money towards the deficit. "So far \$34 billion has been collected and now (as Minister of Revenue) I get the opportunity of making the system fair."

"It was a lively and interesting debate," Terry Jackson, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, which organized the event said. "I believe it demonstrates the process. The people came and they asked and hopefully got the answers they wanted, and if they didn't they can keep coming until they do."

Jackson estimates there were 325 people in attendance, not including the campaign workers.

"If that's the way it was in Acton, who knows what will happen in Georgetown," Jackson said.

"I think the meeting went fairly well considering we're up against the Blue Jays tonight," moderator Gary Barton, a pharmacist and Chamber member said.

This was the second all candidates meeting, the first was in Bolton on Monday. By the time the election day has rolled around, the candidates will have met to debate and answer questions at least six times, four of them in Halton Hills.

The next all candidates meeting is Thursday at Sacre Coeur Hall in Georgetown at 7 p.m.

The Acton meeting will be on Halton Cable at 6:30 p.m. Monday.

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