

WILLING TO DONATE: Acton's John Hopkins thinks this 1905 Montreal Herald special report should be preserved in an archive or library, but so far, no one has shown any interest in accepting the newspaper which Hopkins called "historically priceless." — Frances Learment photo

Pages of history

Acton's John Hopkins can't understand why no one is interested in a 1905 Montreal Herald Progress Report — a 40-page newspaper of all great things Canadiana from 1808 to 1905.

He's attempted to interest several archives and libraries in the newspaper, which he is willing to donate to see it preserved, but so far can't even get people to return his voice messages and emails about the yellowed, aging newspaper which he found in the bottom of a box of records and school books he bought at a private sale in Elora.

At first he believed the newspaper in the box was just packing material, but then realized it was a special edition of the August 26, 1905 issue of the newspaper — three-quarters of it in very good shape. There content includes 400 facts about Canada, stories touting the country's commerce, banks, fisheries, ranching, railways and western Canada. "There's a whole section about Canadian banks and the last page — with the headline the Canada has six-million people — is a feature about the education system," Hopkins said on Sunday, adding he has not been able to determine why the Progress Report was issued when it was.

Hopkins would like to donate the newspaper to an archive or library, but

hasn't had any call backs from archives in Montreal or the National Archives or several libraries and universities. He is also miffed that "some government employee won't get off their duff and do something," and is unhappy no one else sees the value of the paper that he calls "historically priceless."

Hopkins is not sure how much the newspaper is worth, but if forced to sell it to preserve it, he would not accept less than \$500.

"I'll continue to try to donate it to someone who will preserve it — worst comes to worst, I'll put it in a safety deposit box and my kids can have a piece of history."

Acton No Frills application before the OMB

Unhappy with the Town's tardy handling of its applications for a Loblaw's No Frills supermarket in Acton East, developer Craft Development Corporation has appealed both applications to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

When the Town had not made a decision on the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw applications within the prescribed 180 days of receipt of Craft's amendment applications to allow a 28,500-square-foot supermarket on the south side of Queen Street, just east of the Sobeys plaza, Craft exercised its options of going straight to the OMB for a decision.

Although the applications may well have ended at the OMB without Craft's move as the proposal raised a lot of questions and concerns from adjacent neighbours and businesses at a public

meeting on October, the appeal was still a "little bit of a surprise" to the Town according to John Linhardt, the Director of Planning, Development and Sustainability. "More often than not, proponents don't file an OMB appeal," Linhardt said on Friday, adding it would be "rare" for an application to be finalized within 180 days.

Linhardt said an appeal to the OMB may have been inevitable as there was vocal opposition to the proposal at a public meeting from area neighbours, worried about increased traffic, noise and a commercial operation at their backyards, as well as from owners of the Sobeys plaza. Following the public meeting when five residents raised concerns with the plan, the Town received some comments in support of another supermarket in Acton.

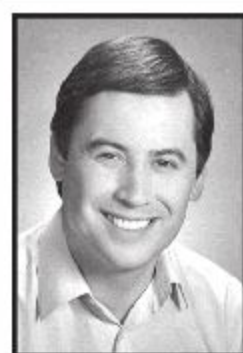
Craft planning consultant, David Falletta said sometimes an appeal to the OMB "will get things moving quicker" adding the Town has been "very forthcoming" with information since they filed for an OMB appeal. Asked what happens next, Falletta said they could at any time withdraw the appeal and then the issue would be "kicked back to the municipality" or they can ask to go through an OMB hearing. "We're trying to set up a pre-hearing conference through the OMB process," Falletta said on Friday.

Linhardt said Craft is now reviewing the Town's comments on issues including planning, design, transportation and landscaping, and once Craft has responded, staff will present Council with a recommended position.

Welcome to the Over The Hill Club!



Happy 50th Birthday Bill
From all your Friends and Family



Michael Chong, M.P.
Wellington-Halton Hills

Here to assist you
1- 866 - 878 - 5556
Chong.m@parl.gc.ca

Georgetown
16 Mountainview Rd S., Suite 205
Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4K1
(905)702-2597

Fergus
200 St. Patrick St. E., Suite 5
Fergus, Ontario N1M 1M4
(519) 843-7344

Country Reflections

Gifts & Home Décor

LADIES NIGHT & lug TRUNK SALE

Friday March 22
6:30pm
37 Mill St. E, Acton

- Guest Speaker
- See the full line of Lugs product (Lugs representative onsite)
- Store Wide discounts

Gourmet du Village samples and refreshments provided

RSVP to reserve your spot
519-853-1996
or countryreflections@ymail.com

www.countryreflections.ca
www.facebook.com/countryreflections