

First Public Meeting held for former Mann Property on 284 Queen St.

By: Vivien Fleisher

After it was determined by Halton Hills Heritage Board last fall to not be of significant value and therefore eligible for demolition and removing it from its Phase 4 Heritage Register List, the property at 284 Queen St. in Acton underwent the first of several public meetings scheduled, as the development proposal put forward by the appli-

cant—Rockwood-based Charleston Homes—makes its way through the planning process. The dog-leg shaped parcel began as a 50-acre farm in 1888 owned by the Mann family, with Donald Mann the “only native son of Halton Hills” according to records, and later became home to a 1950’s era bungalow with an old sheep and cow barn at the back that was at one time the site of a shoe

factory. Given the shape, the development will have two entry points off Queen St. and Longfield Road and has been zoned medium density.

Held at the Acton Arena, the format of the public meeting was an open house style with no presentations planned but representatives for the applicant on hand as well as town staff. This initial meeting welcomed comments from adjacent residents

and anyone concerned. The proposal will see the construction of 16 townhomes known as “bungalofs”—for their open concept on the second level—in what is really a storey-and-a-half height as opposed to a full two-storey dwelling. Charleston Homes president Charlie Kuiken explained the bedroom lofts help keep the roof lines lower in order to blend in with the neighborhood,

which the former owners specifically requested. According to Kuiken, the condominium designs on display showing layout and elevation of the proposed units reflect the demand for the “lock and leave” style of home desired by older residents. Mayor Rick Bonnette concurred, saying, “It’s going to be conducive for seniors to move in” which he said is a huge issue in the area. Kuiken said it’s hard to get the perfect “footprint” for such units because the space usually doesn’t allow for it, but at minimum they expect to see “empty-nesters” show interest in the maintenance-free aspect, plus the condo ownership aspect. With close proximity to the GO train station, he felt it was a real winning

combination for young couples too, which Bonnette felt it would result in a mix of residents.

Several neighbours came out to the meeting. Susan McPhail felt it was a “best case scenario” and was pleased that it’s a local builder behind the project. She was very pleased it wasn’t a higher roofline. However, she said people may have the misconception that it’s going to be affordable housing, since there isn’t going to be any more in Acton. Councillor Clarke Somerville said compared to a townhouse in Mississauga—which often hits the \$900,000 mark—it was affordable, and that it’s the state of housing prices in the GTA. McPhail clarified that she was referring to entry-level pricing.



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Halton Hills demonstrates strong financial position

The Town’s annual audit was completed and once again affirmed the Town’s positive financial position. The audited financial statements include:

- the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Town including the Halton Hills Public Library, the Acton Business Improvement Area, the Georgetown Central Business Improvement Area
- the Town’s investment in Halton Hills Community Energy Corp. (HHCEC)
- the Trust Fund Statements administered by the Town

New this year, was the completion of a Management Discussion and

Analysis document—a narrative that tells the story behind the numbers.

Annual audits ensure transparency and fiscal accountability. The Town’s financial statements were reviewed by external auditors KPMG, LLP as part of a regular municipal practice in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. The auditors were satisfied that the Town is operating in accordance with accounting standards; and did not identify any control risks or areas of concern.

For more information on the Town’s financial documents, visit haltonhills.ca



Acton’s Farmers’ Market on 7 had a good start to their second year with new vendors and activities for patrons to enjoy. Sarah Vontfoort with Ontario Farmland Trust was at the market last week. The market—held in the parking lot of Bethel Church—runs every Thursday of the season. - Alex Hilson photo



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