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Synchronized jumping

The incredible, breathtaking Daredevil Duo were performing at the Georgetown Pool during the special Valentine's Day swim. Eleven-year-old Jennifer McMullen took the plunge, while Janine Taylor, 10, fearlessly balanced on McMullen's feet. Awesome trick. Photo by Laura Salverda

Communications tower is left out in the cold

By Dianne Cornish

Plans by CanTel Cellular Phone to build a 340-foot tower in rural Acton has neighboring residents up in arms. Veterinarian Ron Trenton, representing 20 residents living in a rural cluster north of Highway 7 at its juncture with Dublin Line, asked council to help area residents with their "dilemma" by arranging a meeting with Cantel representatives.

"The holes are drilled and the cement has been poured" for the tower's foundation, Dr. Trenton told council while expressing concern that the lighted tower "will change the character of our area."

The doctor explained that Cantel people began canvassing the area last fall looking for some land that could be leased for their tower. "They were talking 100 feet (in height), then," he said, noting that neighboring residents are surprised and concerned that the proposed height of 340 feet is much higher than most communication towers.

"We're very suspicious about its actual use," Dr. Trenton said, speculating that its size seems to indicate that other ancillary uses will be added in the future.

Another resident of the area, Roger Gardener, who has job-related experience in designing communications towers, expressed the same suspicion. He also voiced frustration over the inability of municipal governments to control the location and size of the towers which are under federal jurisdiction and can only be regulated by the Department of Communications and the Department of Transportation.

"They don't need a building permit and they don't need zoning,"

Gardener told council. "We feel very hamstrung by this process and need your help," he added.

Mayor Russ Miller told the delegation that the town was successful in negotiating a relocation of a smaller but similar tower in Hornby a few years ago. He suggested that planning staff arrange a meeting between Cantel and area residents to address concerns and come to a possible resolution of differences.

It's expected the meeting will be held within the next few weeks. It will be followed by a formal site plan meeting during which town staff, committee members and the public will have an opportunity to make recommendations or voice concerns about the project.

"There may be some argument whether we have any jurisdiction even at site plan," the town's planning director Ian Keith said, although he noted that communications tower representatives have worked co-operatively with town staff in the past.

Councillor Norm Elliott of Acton suggested that better "public relations" might be in the best interests of Cantel. "Nobody as big as Cantel should be operating in a vacuum when it comes to the importance of public relations," he said.

When town staff becomes aware of the magnitude of such projects, they should immediately set up "dialogue" with the people involved, he suggested. However, Keith said staff didn't get full information about the proposal until 10 days ago.

"I find it disturbing that they've already picked the site and put the stakes in the ground," Councillor Rick Bonnette said. He suggested

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Piped water in the works for Glen Williams

By Dianne Cornish

If all goes as planned, Glen Williams residents will have town water piped into their homes by the end of this year. The watermain project, which had been awaiting provincial funding for the past five years, got the push it needed last week when Halton North MPP Noel Duignan announced a \$1.035-million grant for the watermain under the jobsOntario Capital program from the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

Ward 2 councillors Rob Heaton

and Bill Robson, who represent the hamlet on town council, welcomed news of the grant for the long-awaited watermain extension.

"It (Halton Region's funding request) was rejected the first time," Councillor Robson said. "Then, they (ministry officials) went back, re-examined the figures and put it higher up on the priority list," he added.

Confirming that many of the private water wells in Glen Williams are contaminated, Robson said quality water will be welcomed by

residents. "At least, they'll have less to worry about health-wise."

On a cautious note, he said the arrival of town water to the hamlet will be akin to "a double-edged sword." Once there's piped water, demands for sewage soon follow and, after that, residents can expect more plans for commercial and residential development, he reasoned.

Robson and Heaton both credited Duignan for his successful effort in securing funding for the project.

"I'm pleased that the government

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Robber hits mall bank

Police said a lone man held up the Georgetown Marketplace Scotia Bank on Friday, Feb. 12, at 1:35 p.m. He approached a female teller and displayed a note stating he had a gun, although no gun was observed. He verbally demanded money and several thousand dollars were handed over. The man then left the bank and was last seen getting into a pickup truck in the parking lot. The suspect was described as a white male, 25-27 years old, approximately five-foot, eight-nine inches tall, about 150-160 pounds. He was said to have dark brown hair, a narrow mustache, and was last seen, wearing a black baseball cap, grey t-shirt, plaid over-shirt and black pants. There were no injuries during the robbery and police are continuing the investigation.

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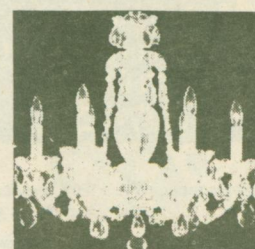


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