



The Acton Figure Skating Club Carnival will be held April 2 and 3 at Acton Arena in Prospect Park. Some of the characters sure to entertain with their on-ice antics include; Mickey and Mini Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy and Winnie the Pooh. Tickets are available at Freezer Frenzy, Glenlea Drugstore, the CIBC (all in Acton), or by contacting Jane Roberston at 853-1653. Photo by Simon Wilson

NEP report delayed again

By Dianne Cornish

The release of an extensive report on the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) and its policies has been delayed at least until next week and possibly longer.

The Five-Year Review was scheduled to be released Monday, but hearing officers failed to meet that target date. "We're targeting for next week, but we're not making a firm commitment," Janet Martel, assistant board secretary of the Environmental Assessment Board (EAB), said Monday morning during a telephone interview from her Toronto office. Martel said she would be in a better position to give a definite date by early next week.

Officials at the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) in Georgetown have expressed frustration in the past over delays in the report's release and have asked

hearing officers to speed up the process. "This has been going on for some time," Richard Murzin, public affairs manager of the NEC said Monday, venting frustration over yet another delay.

Hearing officers have asked three times for an extension on the report's release since last June, Murzin added.

A total of 86 days of public hearings wrapped up about a year ago, with landowners and officials giving testimony as part of the Five-Year Review process.

The purpose of the Review is to look at the first five years of the NEP's operation and examine "the Plan's successes and shortcomings," with a view toward "correcting any shortcomings," Murzin explained.

The report is expected to be about 500 pages long.

Halton Hills

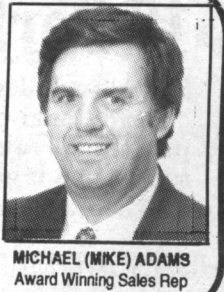
THIS WEEK

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Council asked to monitor proposed development

By Dianne Cornish

A disgruntled Georgetown homeowner, armed with signed statements from other homeowners living in Law Development's Kingsmill on the Credit subdivision, asked town council last week to closely monitor the Law's plans to build another subdivision in the Maple Avenue/River Drive area. "Perhaps you can look a little deeper into the next stage (a proposal to build 67 townhouse units behind Varian Canada Inc.), Mike Foley suggested to council.

"If that area is to be developed, I hope it's developed responsibly," Foley said, suggesting that environmental safeguards should be incorporated into the proposed stage (Phase III).

Foley asked the town to consider a lower density residential use for the area and investigate the adequacy of a detention pond near the Credit River which handles stormwater drainage from Phases I and II of the development.

He also read letters from some of his neighbors, condominium unit owners in Phase II on the north side of Maple Avenue, east of Mountainview Road. The letters, signed by the homeowners, criti-

cized Law Development for failing to correct deficiencies in the townhouse units, altering layouts after buyers had been shown original plans and selling extra parking spaces in the underground lot when there weren't any available.

In answer to the allegations, Eddy Li, executive vice-president of the Toronto area development company, said "an option to change" exists in agreements between home-

owners and the developer. Supplying an electric hot water heater as a substitute for a natural gas unit was seen "as a benefit to the individual owner" because electrical units are considered very safe and natural gas water heaters represent a cost to homeowners because they're rented out on a monthly basis, he said during a telephone interview Monday.

Individual items related to layout

changes, including water heater substitutions and furnace and electrical panel installations in the living room of units, have been "gone over and over again" with homeowners. All were addressed last fall during a public meeting in Georgetown attended by homeowners and representatives of Law and the Ontario New Home Warranty Program, Li said.

Underground parking spaces

were sold as extras when the developer thought extras were available, he explained. However, the town bylaw was changed, making it necessary for the developer to provide two parking spaces for residents in upper units, he added. Money was returned to those who bought extra spaces and a second space was given to homeowners, at no additional cost, even though Law wasn't "contractually" obligated to do so, Li said.

The Law official said large piping was installed at the outset of its subdivision developments in the Maple Avenue area to deal with stormwater drainage for all three phases.

As for protecting the environmental integrity of the area, Li said the land behind Varian is currently zoned industrial and Law is proposing a residential use. "Environmentally, isn't it better to try to change it to a residential use" rather than have an industry locate there, he asked.

Town council directed concerns raised by Foley to town staff for follow-up investigation. The town's planning director Ian Keith said it'll be "some months" before Law's Phase III application comes before council for consideration.

School board faces building fine

By Dianne Cornish

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board and a Markham-based contractor working for the board have been charged by the Halton Hills building code enforcement department for starting to build an elementary school in Georgetown without a permit. If convicted at the April 1 court hearing in Milton, the board and contractor could be fined a maximum of \$10,000 each.

Four employees of the construction company also face charges laid by the town under the Ontario Building Code, Halton Hills bylaw enforcement officer Bob Ustrzycki said Monday during a telephone

interview. All charges were laid Feb. 5.

Ustrzycki said the town issued a stop-work order to the board, Jan. 21. The order went out after municipal inspectors discovered that workers had laid the school's foundation without a building permit from the town. Despite the order, work continued at the site in Georgetown South.

Verbal and written warnings were issued to workers building on the site on three different occasions before charges were laid.

Giacomo Corbacio, the board's building and plant controller, said the board directed the contractor not to start construction without a

building permit.

He said the board waited "an unusual length of time" for a building permit after applying for one in September of last year. In hopes of speeding up the process, a separate foundation permit was applied for. The contractor was anxious to get the foundation in and went ahead with construction, he added.

"It's unfortunate," Corbacio said. "Communications got bogged down."

A permit was granted Feb. 17 and construction is continuing on the site. However, the charges remain outstanding and will be answered in court next month.

GEORGETOWN

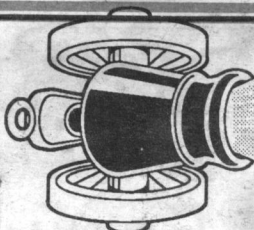
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