

MUNICIPAL DIGEST

Snakes alive!

An Acton resident's fear of snakes has prompted local politicians to call for a staff report on a possible municipal bylaw to ban exotic pets. The resident, who asked to remain anonymous for their own protection, complained in a letter to Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette that it was "very discomfoting" to have seen a man with a python wrapped around his body at the Fall Fair.

"I saw the snake too and lost six years off my life," Bonnette told Council. I'm allergic to exotic pets like snakes and sharks and don't think a public place, like the fair with babies in strollers and small children, is the place for a snake."

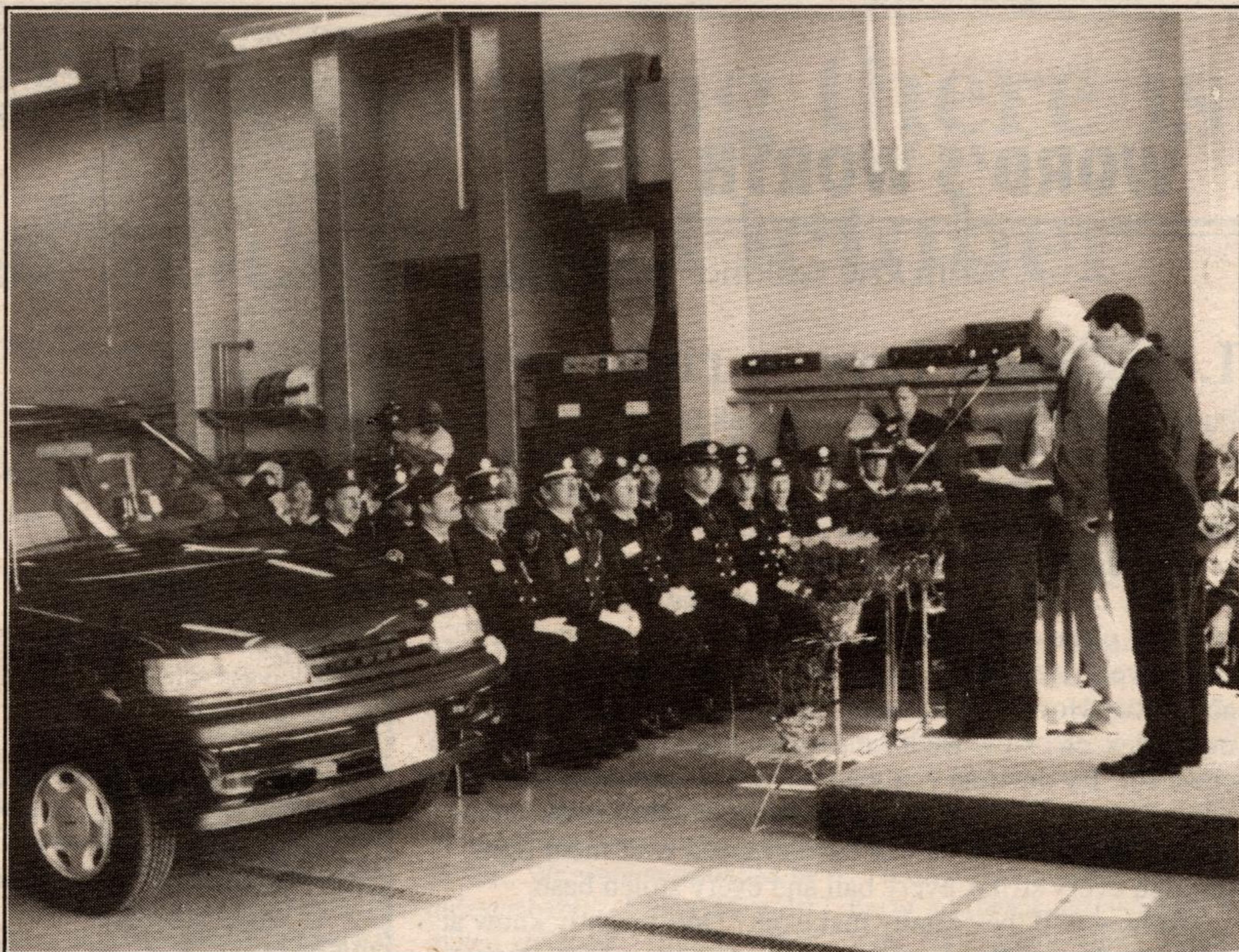
Nitrate levels concern

Georgetown Councillor Gail Rutherford is worried that the Ministry of Health and owners of a rural Acton property are negotiating on Provincial standards for nitrate migration as part of the process of approving plans for an estate subdivision on the land. The property in question is the old drag strip land, north of Highway 7 between the Fifth and Sixth Lines. "Ni-

trates cause cancer. Has the Ministry gone too low on its standards?" Rutherford asked during Council debate last Tuesday night on a request from the developer for an extension of draft plan approval. Town staff reported the extension would allow the Ministry and developer to continue negotiating conditions for approval, including the nitrate migration issue.

Grave investigation

Acton taxpayers are not getting "hosed." That is the finding of Acton resident Lou Bonnette, who launched an investigation into the cost of opening a grave after reading a Tanner story about an Acton woman who questioned a \$468.75 bill for digging a grave. "I spent two days on the phone and found that Halton Hills is cheapest in the Toronto area," Bonnette told the Tanner Friday. "The price is actually \$388.05, plus GST, and overtime if it's after 4 pm." In Brampton the cost is \$410 plus GST and in Milton it's \$400 plus GST. In some smaller towns, like Eden Mills, it's cheaper but they don't bury in the winter. The best bargain is in Fergus where the cost is \$240."



FIRE FIGHTER'S DREAM: As Acton's volunteer fire fighters looked on, Achilles Mazda owner Les Pelitis, flanked by Mazda Canada official Tony Harold, donated a Mazda MPV for the fire fighters' use for six months. Pelitis made the surprise donation at the official opening of the Churchill Road Fire Station on Saturday, receiving a standing ovation for his generosity. (Jim Warrington photo).

Fire Station opening a light-hearted affair

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Captain Herb Dodds, who also received his 35-year Service Pin at Saturday's ceremony.

Dodds noted that fire fighting had come a long way since 1879, when the Acton Bucket Brigade was formed. In 1883 the Brigade moved into the new Town Hall, where the three-hole outhouse doubled as the firefighters' equipment shed. In 1958 the fire department built an addition to the Bower Avenue Town Hall and in 1978 a second storey was added to that facility.

Fire Chief Bill Cunningham told the crowd that it was both a pleasure and an honour to open the facility. "This project is probably the most significant thing I will do in my career. It was a long process with many debates and I thank the 1989-91 Council that saw the absolute need to move into a new, modern facility," Cunningham said.

"We can be proud that we moved in here debt-free. This is the best site in all of Acton and the land owners, Coscan Developments, gave us their best piece of property for a fraction of its value. What a fine example of good corporate citizens."

The big surprise of the ceremony came when the Chief had the bay doors opened and a fire fighter drove in a brand-new 1992 Mazda MPV. The van was donated to the firefighters, for at least six months, by Achilles Mazda owner Les Pelitis and Mazda Canada. Pelitis, who licensed the vehicle and will pay all servicing costs, received a standing ovation from the firefighters for his generosity.

The light-hearted mood of the opening continued with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. The "ribbon" was an old fire hose and the usual scissors was a fire axe, wielded by Mayor Russ Miller.

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**Prices Effective
Oct. 21 to Oct. 24**