



THANK-YOU ACTON: Volunteers at the Acton FoodShare food bank were overwhelmed by the generosity of Acton and area residents, who donated more than 12,400 pounds of food in Saturday's second annual Scout and Guide food drive. Here a group of workers take time from stocking the shelves to say thanks. (Ron Birrell photo)

Public meeting called on plaza proposal

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

An Acton East developer's appeal for action prompted sympathetic Halton Hills politicians to schedule a public meeting no later than Jan. 4 on a proposed major commercial plaza in Acton East.

At Town Council Monday night, Coscan Developments Corporation persuaded Halton Hills politicians to stop delaying their proposal and let the public comment on plans for a 77,000 square foot plaza with a major food store at the south east corner of Churchill Road and Highway 7.

Coscan lawyer Gordon Petch pleaded with council to end four years of delays and over the strenuous objections of Town staff, Council agreed to hold the public meeting.

In making his plea Petch outlined the long and complex history of the proposal which he said got caught up in Town land use and an implementation study.

"We still have an application from 1988 outstanding on the shopping centre. It's 77,000 square feet and we have a tenant who is committed to getting this plaza and the food store built," Petch explained. "It means an opportunity for the

developers and the town. There is revenue and jobs being lost by the delays and we keep saying we want a public meeting. We aren't there to dicker but we can't sit here waiting for the rest of the world to unfold. We're not asking you to approve anything but just give us a chance so that we can hear from Council at a public meeting and win or lose we'll take our lumps or our benefits, but please let's get through the process."

Town planning director Ian Keith opposed calling for a public meeting with outstanding matters involving access to the site from Highway 7 and storm water management issues. Keith told Council it would be inappropriate and premature to call the public meeting without having all the necessary information.

"It would be wise and prudent to have all of the comments from the Province and have the land use and implementation studies before you make a decision to go to a public meeting.

Keith told Council they would have the land use study and implementation plan before them in December and urged them to wait until they had that information be-

fore calling a public meeting.

Acton councillor Norm Elliott argued for getting on with the process and said it was frustrating beyond words for Acton residents and developers.

"There has been virtually no development in Acton for years. The Coscan proposal is one of the most promising. We have enough information to go to the public and somebody has to make a decision and let some development proceed."

Following Council's decision to send the proposal to a public meeting, Petch said Coscan was very pleased with the outcome.

"I think our plan unfortunately got involved in a lot of 'planning.' Everybody thought it would be nice to have an implementation study and that took two or three years. Then everybody wanted a land use study and at the same time other people were challenging the local urban boundaries. There's been a great cost and loss of revenue and a delay of 300 jobs for the Town because of planning. You can only plan so long and we can't go any further than just signing letters of intent with tenants until we get Town approval."

Generosity of residents will feed hungry

Continued from Page 1
Cable Systems and IGA."

FoodShare spokesperson Joan Waldie said the generosity of Acton residents made her cry. "I was overwhelmed. I was so emotional I was in tears when the boxes and bags of food rolled in. The goodness and kindness of Acton and area residents made me proud.

"We now have over six tons of food to feed the hungry this winter. I thank the people of Acton from the bottom of my heart."

In Georgetown, the Scouts and Guides collected 23,000 pounds of food for the Love in Christ Food Bank.



RECYCLE THIS
NEWSPAPER

NEWS SHORTS

Remains not identified yet

Halton police have not confirmed the identity of skeletal remains found by hunters Friday morning at the Eighth Line and 27 Sideroad area of Halton Hills. Police do not suspect foul play and will use dental records to positively identify the body, which had been there for some time. Police said the body was found in a concealed camp.

Rockwood rip-off

Four thousand dollars worth of cigarettes were stolen in a break-in early Sunday morning at Ray's Variety Store in Rockwood. Guelph OPP report thieves smashed the front door to get into the store and took 100 cartons of cigarettes.

Stolen jack recovered

A young offender has been charged with possession of stolen property after a \$450 jack belonging to Acton High School was found in his garage recently. The jack had been missing from the school for four or five days.

Charged with making threats

An Acton man has been charged with assault and threatening death following a drinking spree on Saturday at an Acton home. Police report the suspect and an accused got into an argument and the suspect grabbed the victim by the neck and threatened to kill him. Police were called and made the arrest.

Get crackin'

Police have not charged four Acton youths involved in an egg-throwing incident at a Mill Street East home last month. The homeowner told police he was watching television when some youths threw two eggs through his front door. Police caught one suspect, still armed with eggs, who readily identified the other culprits. Police left any disciplinary action up to the suspects' parents.

INDEX

Word's Worth	6	Sports	13
Petunia Patch	7	Classifieds	18

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"There has been virtually no development in Acton for years. The Coscan proposal is one of the most promising. We have enough information to go to the public and somebody has to make a decision and let some development proceed."

- *Counc. Norm Elliott on a proposed Acton plaza*

DID YOU KNOW?

When statues of horseback-riding heroes are constructed, the horse's position signifies how the hero died. A statue showing the horse with two hooves raised indicates the hero died in battle; one hoof raised, he died of battle wounds; and if all four hooves are on the ground, the hero died naturally.

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