

MUNICIPAL DIGEST

Grier grumblings

Local politicians are not very happy with Environment Minister Ruth Grier, but could not be convinced to join the call for her resignation.

Last Monday at Council, Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette urged his colleagues to support a motion from Brampton calling for Grier's job over her handling of the current search for landfill sites in the Greater Toronto Area.

"Grier has ignored technology like energy from waste. She ignored an offer from Northern Ontario to take our waste and she has ignored our opposition to a dump in the Acton quarry. She's over-rated and she should resign," Bonnette argued.

Fellow Acton Councillor Norm Elliott suggested Bonnette, and Brampton, should change their tune.

"I think we should ask Brampton to change the tone of the resolution and ask that these concerns be dealt with. Once the people in power see the resignation part of it, they might tend to ignore the whole thing. The resignation diminishes the merit of the arguments against the landfill site search," Elliott said.

In the end, Council did not vote on Brampton's request for support for the resignation motion, but referred it a Town lawyer for consideration.

Arena alert

Within a week, Halton Hills staff think they should have some news on the search for a location for Acton's new \$4.1 million arena.

At Council last Monday night, staff said negotiations are continuing with Rinarin Developments, which has offered the Town a site on the north side of Highway 7, east of Churchill Road.

Coscan Developments has also offered a site on the south side of Highway 7. Unofficially the current Prospect Park location has been ruled out, but an industrial site off Wallace Street and McDonald Boulevard is still on the table.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette wanted to know when a report naming a site will be ready.

"The Acton Councillors don't want to walk into another budget meeting and be told, like last year and the year before, 'no site, no money.' We've been trying to find a site for over a year and I hope we are down to the fine tuning," Bonnette said.

Mayor Russ Miller reported a call he'd had from the Rinarin lawyers, who offered a site in exchange for increased density for other Rinarin land, currently proposed for housing.

Court action threat

Murray Stephen, general manager of the Halton Region Conservation Authority, is threatening to take the Province to court if it does not make United Aggregates Limited (UAL) stop diverting the Sixteen-Mile Creek basin into the Black Creek basin while excavating the Acton quarry.

Stephen claimed wells could run

dry if the diversion of water doesn't stop at the 193 hectare quarry on the north and south sides of Regional Road 12, south of Acton.

The Province said UAL is allowed to pump ground water that accumulates on the quarry floor into the Black Creek basin, but it will have to stop if tests show that the Black Creek headwaters are being depleted.

Acton couple Hawaii-bound

Acton's Wally Ella is dreaming of white beaches, pounding surf and swaying palms after winning first prize in the Acton-Georgetown Seniors' Draw.

Wally, who spent \$10 on three tickets for himself and split another three tickets with a friend, said he never thought he'd win.

"I bought the tickets to support the seniors here in Acton who are trying to come up enough money to renovate the old firehall into a new seniors' centre," Ella said Thursday as he picked up his tickets from Acton Travel, which supplied the prizes to the seniors at cost.

Wally's grand prize includes 12 days on two Hawaiian islands.

Second prize, won by two Georgetown women, was four days in Las Vegas.

Wally said the win came out of the blue. "I got a call just after 2 am New Year's morning from Councillor Gerald Rennie, who wished me a happy New Year, and said my name had been drawn. What a great way to start the year."

Wally, who works at Leathertown Lumber, and his wife Doris have not picked a date for their trip, but said it will be scheduled between April and October.

"My wife and I had talked about going some place warm for our 20th anniversary next year. We'll just go a year early."



MAI TAI ANYONE?

Wally "Waikiki" Ella, right, got into the island spirit Thursday as he accepted tickets for two, to Hawaii, from Acton Travel owner Robert Warrington. The trip was first prize in the Acton-Georgetown Seniors' Draw to raise money for new seniors' centres. (Frances Niblock photo)



SONY STEREO ON SALE

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