

Acton Councillor blasts Commerce Court

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
Acton Councillor Norm Elliott slammed Acton's Commerce Court industrial park during debate last Tuesday night on long-term plans for Acton's growth.

Elliott was speaking in favour of plans to allow the so-called Dawkins-Heller land to convert its industrial water allocation to residential so it could build houses on the land west of Wallace Street, north of McDonald Boulevard.

After being told that the 39-acre Dawkins-Heller property was the only zoned and serviced industrial land in Halton Hills, and that it was the cheapest industrial land in Halton Region, Elliott replied, "Commerce Court is probably one

of most poorly appointed commercial-industrial subdivisions in all of Ontario. Maybe that's why there is no development there, but I'm not assessing blame, or saying whose fault it is."

Elliott said it was not fair to hold Dawkins-Heller to the industrial designation when there was vacant industrial and commercial buildings and property across the street in Commerce Court.

Although Dawkins-Heller is not included in land recommended for residential growth, a Town planning consultant said the land owners, Town and Region should try to convince the Ministry of Environment to allow the conversion from industrial to residential.

United Way campaign collects \$182,000

The 1992 United Way of Halton Hills fund raising campaign came up \$18,000 short, but campaign chair Bob Malcolmson is not disappointed.

"We did as well as we could. Money is tight all over and we are still at the bottom end of the recession. The people of Halton Hills gave generously and I want to thank them," Malcolmson said in an interview Monday.

This year's goal was \$200,000, a five per cent increase over last year's total.

"It would have been nice to reach

the goal but what is important is that we raised the amount we did. We now have something to aim for next year."

Malcolmson said it is too soon to know if the shortfall will affect the funding to the United Way's 23 member agencies.

"The allocations are debated by United Way board members and the public. Each agency has to justify its request but I hope this shortfall won't mean that they won't get the money they need to offer the programs and services that they did this year."



READ ALL ABOUT IT

John Cullen gives Horticultural Society member Ruth Payne a handout on the famous Cullen Gardens. John's mom, Janet Cullen, was a guest speaker at the Society's annual dinner held on Friday in the Knox Presbyterian Church hall in Acton. (Eric Balkind photo)

Mayor urges, Lighten Up Acton

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
Acton residents have been challenged to wear a red nose and be supremely silly on Friday, Feb. 5.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller issued the challenge last Monday night at Council during a presentation by Acton's Jack Carpenter who began the one-day fun event last year.

"I think it gives people, in our country, in a time that we're going through a recession, a reason to laugh, to laugh at ourselves and have a bit of fun.

"So I challenge you to wear a red nose and a happy smile that day and have some fun," Miller said.

Carpenter had Town Council smiling as he put on a red nose and thanked them for being the first council to proclaim the Lighten Up

day and outlined some of the local Lighten Up events.

"We have businesses in Acton and Georgetown that are selling the red noses. We sold about 12,000 last year. So far this year we've sold 125,000 and we are shipping them to Phoenix, Arizona and Halifax. We'll have a big party here at the Civic Centre and I hope everyone will Lighten Up."

Outside the meeting Carpenter said in Acton the red noses are available at IGA, Foodland, and Canadian Tire.

"Across the street at Entertainment Tonight if you rent two of their premium movies, you get a nose free. And if you go back on the 5th with a nose on, you get a free comedy movie with a regular rental.

"I'm sure all the stores and busi-

ness along Mill Street will wear noses again this year," Carpenter said.

Carpenter explained the Light Up event started, by accident, with him last year.

"I read a news item on radio in Kitchener last year as I was getting ready to produce the annual St. Jack's Day.

"For 20 years I have produced a comedy series on the 6th of February, St. Jack's Day, because he is the patron saint of humour," Carpenter said.

"Anyway, I read an item on-air about people putting on red noses and having a belly-laugh on St. Jack's Day and said 'that sounds like a good idea and we should do it here and lighten up.'

"The next morning the phone rang from all over hell's half-acre with people wanting to take part."

Lighten Up day events in Acton will be announced at a press conference on Monday, Feb. 1 at Jack Tanner's Table.

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