Illegal parking bylaw?

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

They have been told they can not do it legally, but Councillors still want staff to investigate a bylaw that would prevent people from parking heavy equipment in residential driveways in Acton.

The issue was raised by Acton Councillors who were fielding complaints from residents about neighbours who were parking heavy dump trucks and school buses outside their homes.

Although Georgetown does have such a bylaw, staff said it would not stand up in the courts if challenged.

Despite advice from the Town's



solicitor that Council cannot control either people or personal property with a bylaw, Councillors want staff to take another look.

"To park a big diesel in a residential driveway, or even a large stake truck, is not generally acceptable," argued Acton Councillor Norm Elliott at last Monday's General Committee meeting.

"The planning department is saying that such legislation in other venues might not stand the test of law, but there's got to be a better answer; we've got to do something to give us better control over these things," said Elliott.

Planning director Ian Keith said the Georgetown bylaw is invalid, has no authority in law and would be struck down the first time the courts were asked to rule on it.

"We have no jurisdiction to pass such a bylaw. Period. That's not to prevent Council from doing it and bluffing the matter," Keith said.

"If you instruct us to prepare such a bylaw and just bluff the municipality, then we will do that. What we are saying is that we cannot counsel you to do that because it is against the law. If you direct us to do it that's your privilege," Keith said.

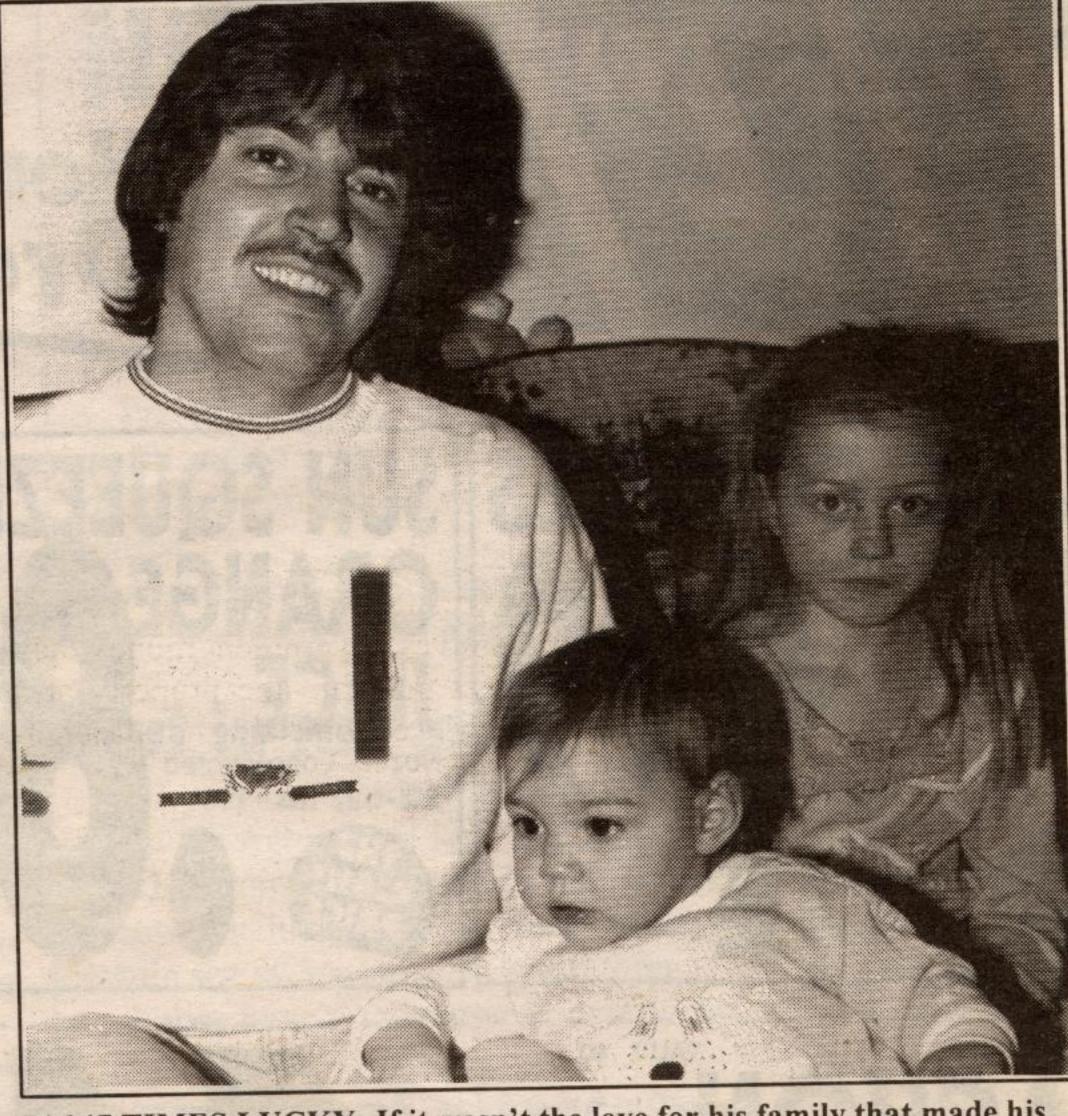
Mayor Russ Miller noted that the parking of boats, trucks, school buses and other heavy equipment is an ongoing real problem and urged Councillors not to accept the staff's answer on the issue, but to send it back for more study.

"We've had these concerns for quite some time. Let's take some action. Let's try something."

Acton Councillor Gerald Rennie was puzzled by the debate.

"I can't believe that this Council would ever consciously pass a bylaw knowing very well that it was illegal."

Staff will study the issue again and report back to Council.



74,047 TIMES LUCKY: If it wasn't the love for his family that made his heart pound on Valentine's Day, it had to be the \$74,047 that made its way into Acton resident Sandy Sutherland's life. Sandy, a finishing technician at Blackhawk Leather and his wife Alice (not shown), both 26, purchased the winning Lotto 6/49 ducat at in Guelph. Left to right are Sandy and daughters, Tiffany, 1, and Amanda, 6. (Doug Harrison photo)

Seniors still to receive \$32G for centre

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Despite intentions to try to cut money from the Town's proposed \$18.3 million operating budget, Councillors in fact added \$5,393 to the proposed 1993 spending plan during a special budget meeting Monday night.

The Town's sidewalk snow ploughing budget was increased by \$2,000 to \$17,000 and \$2,000 was added to the \$15,000 earmarked to upgrade road conditions on Lane Court in

Georgetown. Just under \$1,400 was added to cover the cost of a part-time summer student in the clerk's department.

Although Council added \$22,000 to help pay for a temporary seniors' centre in Georgetown, the decision will not affect the budget as Councillors cut an equal amount from money earmarked to fight several proposed landfill sites in Peel Region, on Georgetown's eastern border.

Initially \$100,000 was set aside dumps, but Monday's cut, and an last year.

earlier cut, mean the fund has been reduced by almost half to \$53,000.

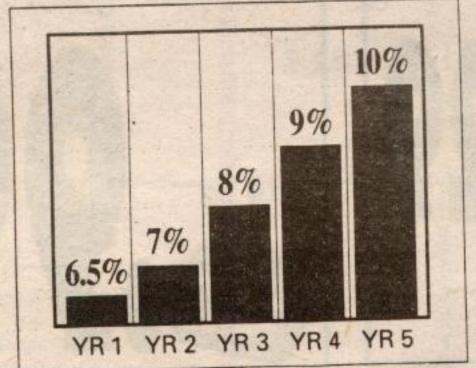
Acton seniors will also be relieved that Councillors rejected a staff suggestion to cut the \$32,000 that is earmarked to renovate the old Bower Avenue firehall into a seniors' centre.

If the proposed operating budget is approved Monday, March 8 as expected, an Acton homeowner with an average assessment of \$5,700 would pay approximately \$622 in Town taxes this year, or for legal bills to fight the proposed just over \$15 dollars more than

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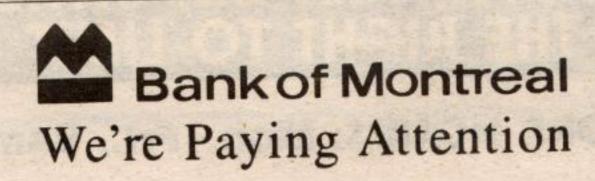


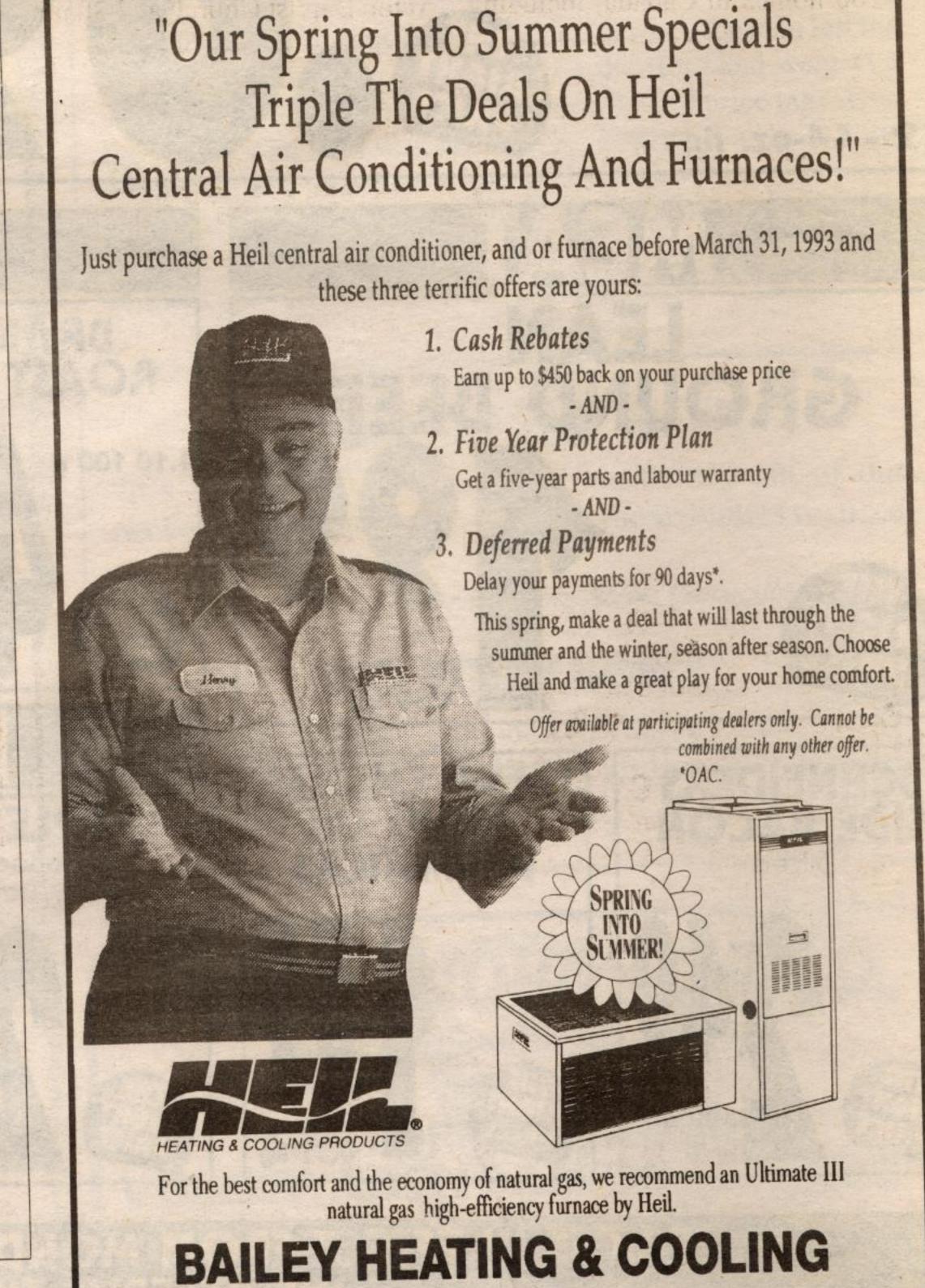
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