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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1993



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS: John Toebes, 1993 Acton Lions Citizen of the Year, received his award at a celebratory dinner on Friday at the Legion. Past recipients (from left to right) Jon Hurst, Dr. David van der Bent, (Toebes), Dave Ford, Ron McKnight and Connie Turpin also enjoyed the festivities. Toebes received the award due to his outstanding contributions to Acton minor sports. He has been president of Acton House League hockey for 20 years and also has been involved with soccer and baseball. (Mike Albano photo)

Solutions to the water problem?

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner

Saying that Acton's growth has been frozen for 20 years by bureaucracy's "deliberate discrimination and benign neglect," the olde Hide House Group has submitted a privately-commissioned engineering analysis of the Town's current water problems to various government agencies.

The proposed solutions and options to water supply and discharge problems are now being reviewed by the Ministry of Environment, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Halton Region and others.

Plans for Acton to grow to 10,000 are in jeopardy because of stringent new conditions on the amount of water that can be pumped from the Prospect Park well, and the quality of effluent that can be discharged into Black Creek.

Report co-author and olde Hide House CEO, engineer Don Dawkins, said Acton has not had a fair deal.

"Since the Beardmore tannery closed down, there has been no valid technical or engineering reason for a development freeze in Acton," Dawkins said.

"We believe that every single person in Acton that owns property has suffered. We believe that businesses that have started in town have either failed, or are not doing as well as they could be, because the population growth has not been approved to support them," Dawkins said in a recent interview.

"The population has shrunk by 501 people since the late '70s and that contraction has caused businesses to suffer."

Ministry of Environment

spokesperson Wes Lammers was reluctant to comment on the suggestions and recommendation in the consultant's report.

"I do not wish to comment at the present time, except to say that most of the ideas which Mr. Dawkins presented, we have looked at as well," Lammers said.

"There was one proposal that I did not look at and it is being examined further, but there is a concern about possible water quality implications.

"I don't want to say anything further at this point until I have the facts," Lammers said.

Steve Dawkins, president of the olde Hide House, said that some provincial officials appear to be the "main agents of obstruction" in approving growth for Acton, while others are supportive.

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PCBs not coming to Acton

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) has cancelled Maple Leaf Foods Inc.'s plans to move PCBs to its registered storage site in Acton.

Town Council was notified by Maple Leaf Foods last Monday of its plan to move a sealed steel drum containing the known carcinogens to its property at 100 Elgin St., the old Beardmore property.

On Friday, the Ministry informed the Town that the transfer had been cancelled.

In an interview Monday, MOE

senior environmental officer, Grant Yarrow said, "Maple Leaf plans to decommission (clean up) the Beardmore property and the PCBs that are already there will have to be moved, so we won't allow any additional PCBs to be moved and stored there," Yarrow explained.

The cancellation took Maple Leaf Foods' vice-president of real estate Peter Goddard by surprise.

"The PCB storage site in Acton has not been part of our discussions with the MOE about clean-up of the Beardmore property," Goddard said in an interview on Friday.

"It has never been our intention to move it anywhere else. Where would they like us to take it?"

"I spoke to the MOE this morning and had no indication that they would prohibit us from moving the PCBs from a site that we are closing in Dresden to Acton.

"I would be very surprised if that is the attitude that the MOE is taking. In fact, I doubt that they have the power to stop the move."

Yarrow said the legislation requires that PCBs only be moved under the Director's instruction.

"If they move it without the Director's instructions, they are in violation," Yarrow said.

Acton loses GO Trains on July 2

The last GO Train to roll into the Acton station will arrive at 6:34 pm on Friday, July 2.

Go Transit has announced that cuts in service, including elimination of train service to Acton and Guelph, will come into effect Saturday, July 3.

Go Transit has been ordered to cut \$6.5 million from its budget as part of Provincial cost-cutting measures.

GO Buses will continue to operate between Acton and the Georgetown train station.

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