

Door slammed on developers

Continued from Front Page

"It literally slams the door in the face of all of the developers in Acton that have indicated that they are ready, willing and able to proceed with much-needed housing plans."

Town Councillors became more frustrated as officials with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Credit Valley Conservation Authority and federal Department of Oceans and Fisheries (DOF) outlined their concerns about the impact of taking additional water to accommodate growth on aquatic life in Fairly Lake and the Black Creek and adjacent wetlands.

DOF fish habitat biologist Ed DeBruyn told Council he sympathized with their frustration at not being able to grow to a population of 10,000 people, but added his department had to give a fair and honest assessment of the impact of growth.

"Unfortunately, geographically you are at the headwaters of the Black Creek. The aquatic

ecosystem will be compromised as soon as you lower the level of Fairy Lake," DeBruyn explained.

"Development may be able to occur but you have to make sure that whatever water you take is done in a fashion that tries to respect the environment."

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette complained that their hands are tied by outside agencies that appear more concerned with fish life, than the economic viability of Acton.

"We have no say. We're just being dictated to by different bureaucracies which are proposing a two-year moratorium on growth without any input from this Council," Bonnette said.

"I know you are having a meeting on Friday to discuss the issues, but I feel frustrated as an elected person representing 7,000 people and there's not a damn thing we can do."

Town and Regional officials will meet Friday with the agencies involved with the issue to talk about the MOE's conditions on a temporary water-taking permit.

"The meeting Friday is to fine-tune the conditions on the permit," said Wes Lammers, MOE special projects co-ordinator, who told Councillors he shares their frustration with the development delays.

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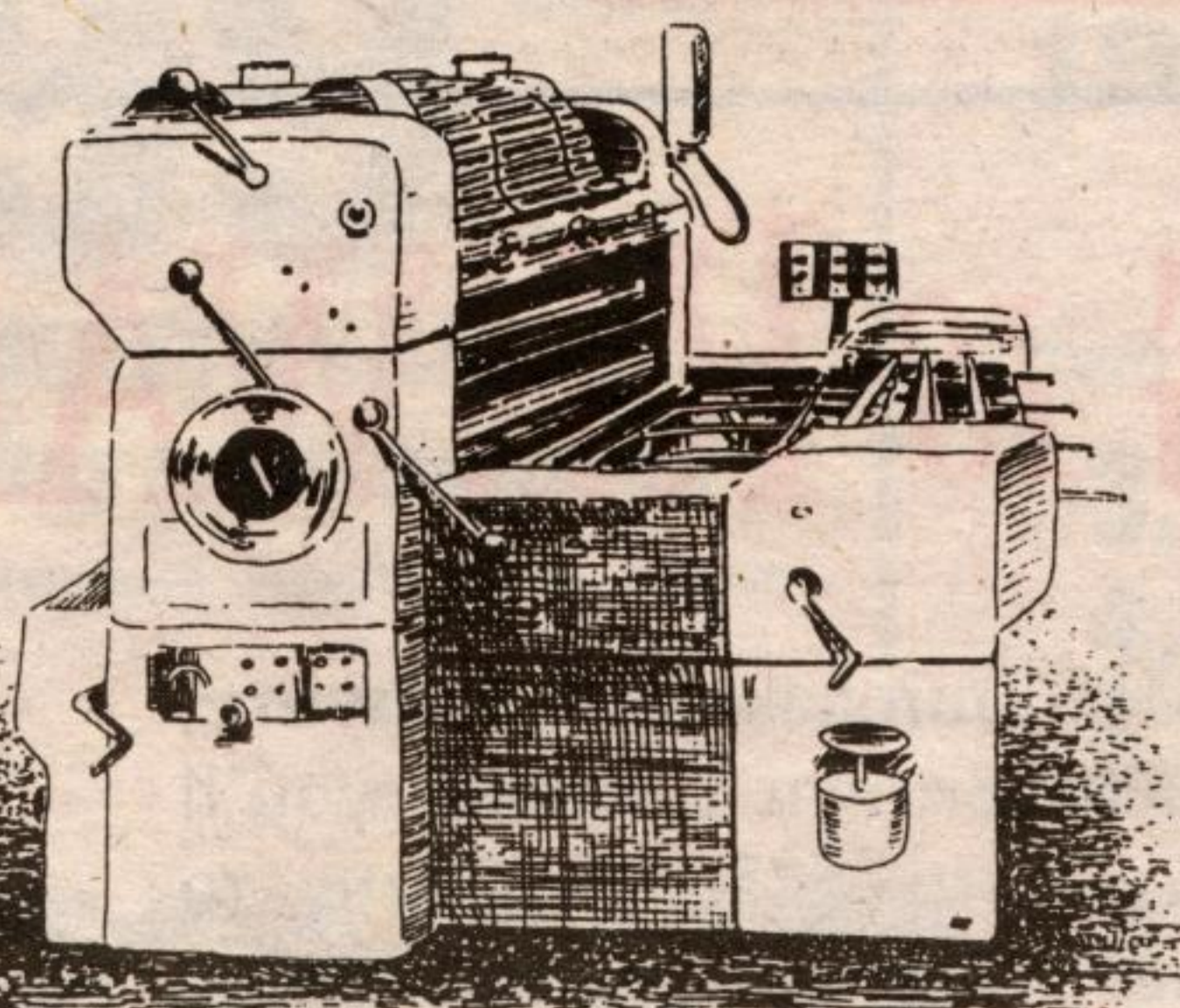
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NEWS SHORTS

Acton hero

Acton's Kevin Mersereau saved the life of a suicidal former Toronto lawyer on Thursday night.

Mersereau, 39, and his wife were taking their usual evening walk when they discovered a car parked with the engine running, just off Sixth Line, south of Highway 7.

A hose ran from the exhaust pipe through the window and Mersereau told police he pounded on the foggy window until the driver, who was sweating profusely, opened the door.

Police report the man is a disbarred lawyer, facing fraud charges in connection with a \$1.5 million real estate deal.

As the man drove away, Mersereau got his licence plate number and police traced the ownership of the car.

Toronto police filed a missing persons report on the man and Halton police searched the area to make sure he did not make another attempt.

Halton police were notified by Metro police that the man returned home safely the next night.

Tiger alert

Local police, fire and ambulance workers have been warned to use caution when answering calls at a Limehouse farm because two Bengal tigers live there.

Acting on a tip, Halton police visited Limeridge Farms on Thursday, and found the tigers in an out-building with a fenced run.

Tim Height, owner of Tiger Paw Exotics and Petting Zoo, told police the tigers are a breeding pair and neither has any front claws.

Police, who also found miniature ponies, yaks and llamas at the farm, said that the tigers are the only dangerous animals on the property.

The Town's by-law officer told police there is no legislation governing exotic animals in Halton Hills, but he will report to Council on the issue within two months.

Grisly find

Two Halton employees discovered the body of a Guelph man in his car on Guelph Line, north of 25 Sideroad on Friday.

Police report the 56-year-old man, depressed over the death of his mother, had been reported missing the day before.

The car, found with a hose running from the exhaust pipe through a window, had singed the grass underneath it before running out of gas.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene and his family was notified.

Old fraud arrest

Halton police transported a 26-year-old Oshawa man to Georgetown from Coburg on Friday in connection with a 4-year-old Acton fraud charge.

Halton police issued a warrant on a false pretences charge in connection with a \$577 cheque, written at the olde Hide House in October 1989.

Coburg OPP arrested the accused on Thursday and notified Halton police, who returned him to Georgetown and released him into his mother's custody.

The accused, who police said is mentally unstable, appears in Milton Court on Monday, June 7.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It literally slams the door in the face of the developers in Acton that have indicated that they are ready, willing and able to proceed with much-needed housing plans."

— Norm Elliott, Acton Councillor, Page 2

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