

Heap of tires stirs Acton resident

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Acton resident Bruce Cargill regards it as an eyesore. Michael Foley says he's just providing a service inside the Ministry of Environment (MOE) regulations.

The matter in question is the heap of tires that sit on the old Ajax factory on Queen Street. The Halton Hills fire department recently declared the inside of the building a fire hazard after discovering it wasn't equipped with a sprinkler system.

Foley, who has rented the building for the past year-and-a-half to store tires, was told to move the tires outside by the end of this

month. He said he's complying with the fire department's request and doesn't see any harm in stacking tires outside.

"I've got nothing to hide," said Foley when approached on his site Thursday. "First and foremost I've got a business to run. There are under 5,000 tires here, which is within the MOE regulations. Also, I'm within the limit of 300 cubic metres for piles of tires."

Countered an angry Cargill on Wednesday: "I took a double-turn when I passed (the building). It's almost like putting a sign out there for kids to come in and do something. He is just asking for trouble. "This end of town used to be the

picturesque part of Acton. It's almost like the slums now."

The tires though, will be staying where they are for an indefinite period because of the steep cost for installing sprinklers.

"It's about \$1.50 per square-foot so it would cost me around \$40,000. I don't have the resources to put that kind of money into it," Foley offered, adding that Modern Recycling Inc. in Lewiston, N.Y. picks up the tires for exporting.

"There are hours and hours spent by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans talking about the contamination in Black Creek and nothing's being said about all these

tires," blasted Cargill. "Nobody is concerned about the damage and contamination that (piles of tires) can cause. I don't know where people's priorities are."

Some of Foley's approximately 4,500 tires only measure 6-metres (19.8 feet) out from the fence surrounded by buildings and houses. He says he "will soon" move them out to 50 feet for safety reasons.

"Foley was given a copy of the Provincial guidelines for the compliance of outdoor storage of tires, which was established by the Ontario fire marshal's office, and misread the numbers," said Halton Hills fire chief Bill Cunningham on Monday.

"There's a portion of the fence damaged on the north-east corner of the property, but Foley has agreed to repair it to satisfaction. We are concerned with the continuous proper storage of the tires, but will monitor it on a regular basis for compliance."

Foley shrugged when asked if he was worried about kids entering the area.

"They would need a gallon of gas and fill the tire to set one off," he said. "Everyone's got five tires with their car, are they worried? If they are so environmentally conscious, they shouldn't be driving on rubber."

"I'm employing local guys and spending money locally. I would like to think I'm doing a service."



TIRE SALE? These are some of the 4,500 tires on the old Ajax factory site that Council and local residents are concerned about. (Doug Harrison photo)

Police hunt suspect

BY TIM MORGETROYD
The Acton Tanner

Acton police are hunting for a man who exposed himself to a 15-year-old Acton girl on Mill Street just hours after a "similar incident" took place in Georgetown, and the day after another act of indecent exposure was reported in Milton.

Last Wednesday night the girl was walking along Mill Street when a man believed to be in his late 20's or early 30's appeared from behind a pick-up truck and began following her. When she turned and looked back she saw he was exposing himself as he walked behind her.

The girl rushed to a nearby house and phoned police, who are still searching for the suspect.

He is described as a white male, 5'7" tall, weighing 170 pounds, with light brown or blond hair, in his late 20s or early 30s. When the incident occurred he was wearing black pants and a light-coloured short-sleeved shirt.

Police cannot say if this is the same man responsible for what they are calling a "similar incident" in Milton a few hours earlier last Wednesday, or if he is the same person who exposed himself the day before (July 27) at the Guelph Street Canadian Tire parking lot in Georgetown.



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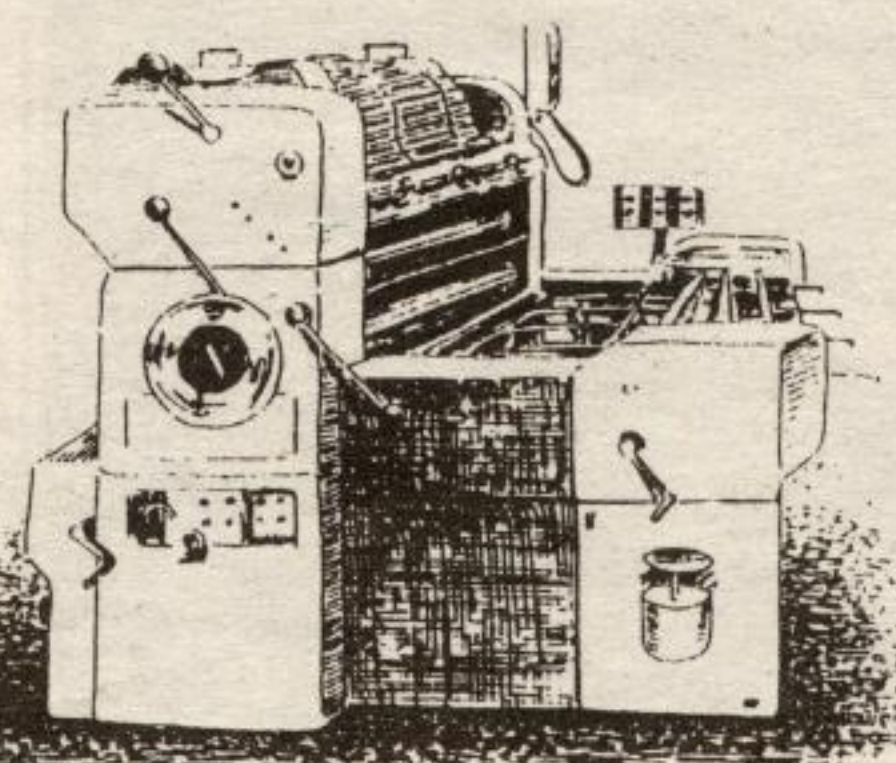
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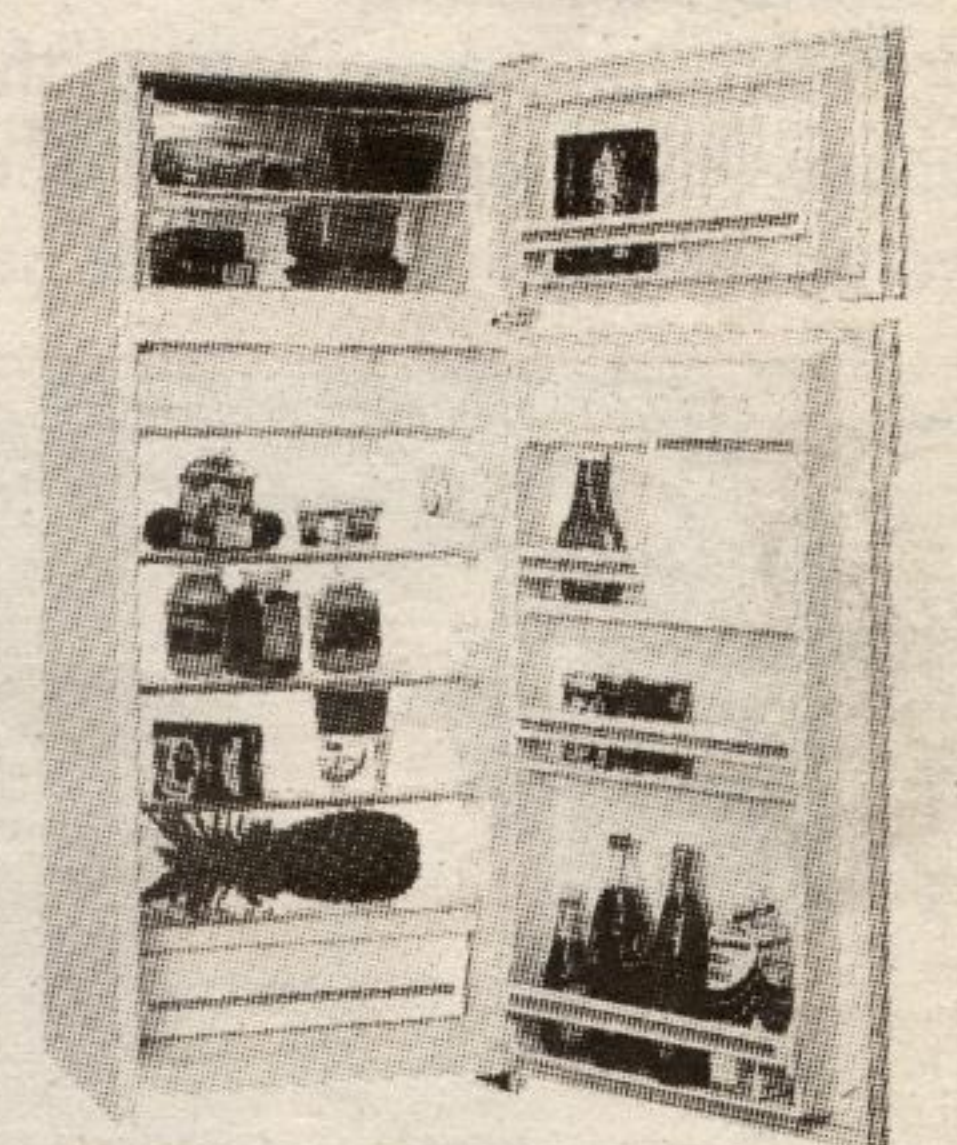
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