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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1994



FOR YOU? TWO DOLLARS!

Young Benjamin Green, 2, is having a great time sitting in the trunk of his parents' car at Saturday's Trunk Sale in the Hide House parking lot. The sale was a successful launch for the Action for Acton business-citizens' group. Story on Page 2. (Lori Frechette photo)

New gun law questioned

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott has "no real confidence" in the Town's new firearm discharge legislation, designed as a model for all of Halton Region.

"Do we have any power to go any further with this (the proposed bylaw)?" Elliott asked at last Monday's General Committee meeting.

"It kind of puzzles me that the legislation allows people to shoot guns and cross-bows so close to highways and roads."

The proposed legislation, designed to end existing fragmentation and overlapping jurisdictions, allows firearms to be discharged within 150 metres of a building and within 30 metres of a highway.

The need for a revamped bylaw was highlighted by a fatal hunting accident in Halton Hills in 1991.

Municipal Bylaw Enforcement officer, Bob Ustrzycki, attempted to dispel Elliott's concerns.

"The Game and Fish Act established the safety distances for firearms discharge," Ustrzycki said.

"We aren't changing the distances but using the legislation to develop a uniform bylaw for Halton. The hunting that we are concerned with is the shotgun season for deer in Halton's agreement forests.

"A full-choke shotgun load will start to lose the majority of its killing impact beyond 50 yards. The 30-metre distance in the bylaw would put a hunter 100 feet away from a highway," Ustrzycki said.

Elliott was not convinced.

"It's not the shotgun that worries me, it's the high-powered deer rifle that night have a range of a mile," Elliott said.

"I'm concerned about the number of incidents you hear about where a gun as been fired close to people and homes. I hear .22 rifles frequently being fired in the bushy area behind my home. A .22 rifle shot is certainly going to travel more than 150 metres, particularly if it ricochets off water, or something," Elliott said.

Ustrzycki explained that high-powered rifles won't be in use in rural Acton or Georgetown because the Game and Fish Act does not allow an open season for deer, except with bow and arrow and for just four days with shotguns.

"Rarely will you find anyone using a high-powered rifle because they lose their accuracy beyond 60 yards, and these limits are far beyond that," Ustrzycki said.

Town Council was expected to approve the bylaw last night (Tuesday). It will be sent to Halton's three other municipalities for their approval.

Cars scratched on Kingham

An '88 Dodge Caravan sustained \$460 damage overnight last Tuesday, when vandals ran a sharp object over the vehicle and caused deep scratches to the paint and body.

Two other cars were also damaged in the same fashion, but reports have not yet been filed.

Police say the cars were legally parked in a Kingham Road lot. There are no suspects at present.

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