

Acton Legion to vote on turbans

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Acton Legionnaires, still smarting at being characterized as "old farts and bigots" in the aftermath of the national Legion's headgear controversy, will receive a questionnaire asking if headgear — specifically turbans — should be worn in Branch 197 club rooms.

"Everyone wants a kick at the Legion," fumed Acton Legion president Gus Jeffrey in a phone interview Thursday night.

"We have always had a sign banning all headgear in deference to our fallen comrades.

"Now all of a sudden we are a bunch of old farts and bigots. The Calgary vote (at Dominion Command or Legion leaders' convention) wasn't a racist vote. It was a vote against the Dominion Command, which was scared by a Hu-

man Rights Commission ruling that turbans are a religious symbol for Sikhs," Jeffrey explained before asking for a face-to-face interview, including Branch 197 public relations officer and past president Joyce Buchanan.

In an interview on Friday, both Jeffrey and Buchanan lamented that the issue was overshadowing all of the good the Legion has quietly done in Acton and reiterated that the vote had nothing to do with racism.

"Normally a by-law or resolution starts at the Branch level and works its way up to Legion Command," Jeffrey explained.

"The vote against allowing turbans was really a vote to tell the Dominion executive that the Branches had operated successfully for 69 years without being told what to do by Dominion ex-

ecutive. It is not going to work that way, not even on this issue."

"We totally reject Dominion executive sending down an edict telling the Branches what to do. It was an internal, political issue and the Dominion executive misjudged how fiercely independent each branch is," Jeffrey said.

Following defeat of the resolution to allow headgear, the issue returned to the branch level.

Although it is a tradition that no headgear be worn in Legion halls, there is nothing in the by-laws, and now each branch will have to decide what it wants to do.

Jeffrey said anyone applying to join the Legion agrees to uphold the laws of the land and since the laws of the land now include the Human Rights Commission ruling that the turban is a religious symbol, the decision becomes more difficult for Acton's 600-plus Legion members.

"I think we are going to have to allow people to wear religious headgear, but that doesn't mean we will have to allow people to wear baseball caps. This has to be done so we don't drive a wedge in our own branch," Jeffrey said.

Buchanan said the threat of having to buy a round of drinks is all it usually takes to quickly remove the cap of a forgetful member.

The Acton Legion will put out a special newsletter next week to poll its members with an as-yet unwritten draft resolution. Results of that poll will be voted on at the general meeting in September.



NEW AT THE LIBRARY!

Acton residents Donald Anderson, left, and Roger Moore show off the Acton Library's new Robitron Text Reader. With a built-in automated voice, the machine scans text from books to allow the legally blind to access information. The scanner has a spell-check and users can vary the reader's speed and type of voice. The Acton Lions Club made a significant donation to purchase the text reader. (Doug Harrison photo)

Acton cats are tops

Two Acton balinese showcats recently received Regional awards for top 10 finishes in Ontario and the country for the show year that began in May 1993 and finished at the end of April this year.

Mischa and Gerghwin, owned by Susanne and David Keith, placed fourth and seventh in the Regional (Ontario) awards and took sixth and 10th spot in the all-Canadian awards.

"We're really excited. We're going to look for another cat this week," says Susanne, who pur-

chased the cats from another Acton resident, Madge Turner. "But we'll never have as good as these two."

The felines made it worthwhile and a good hobby for the Keiths during two years of showing.

"When we first started we said we'd be happy if we got one rosette. I think we have about 150. We need a bigger house," Susanne laughs.

Susanne and David, who are members of the Good Mews Cat Club, are hosting a one-day show on Nov. 13 at the Legion.

SOLMAR starts constructing homes backing on Fairy Lake

The footings are about to be poured at Lakeside Estates in Acton.

Already the services are in at this popular lakeside community, meaning the pipes, drains and infrastructure necessary to provide water, sewers, electricity and roadways are in place.

So this week the builder, Solmar Homes, will begin building the homes in this recreational community.

Solmar opened earlier this year, and already 32 homes have sold.

Recreational living

The buyers are attracted to the lakeside location. Fairy Lake offers swimming, fishing and boating. Some homes back directly onto the lake, while others enjoy the view. All homes are within walking distance of the lake. In fact, a sheltered walkway links all homes to the green space around the lake. Residents can also enjoy

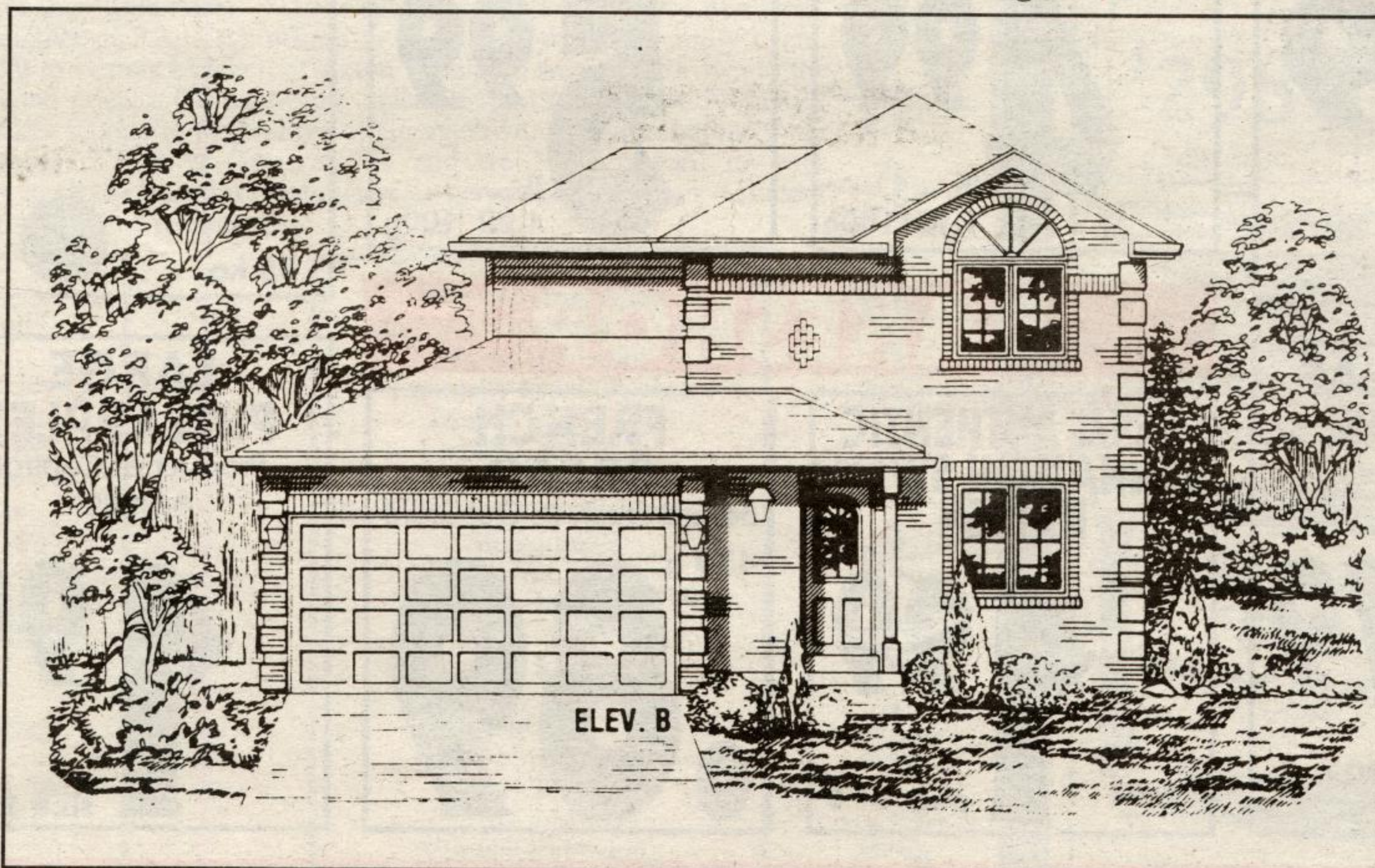
Prospect Park, which is a three-minute stroll from the site. Acton's premier

Sales rep on site

park boasts beaches, a wading pool, barbecue area, playground, gazebo,

walkways, dock and an arena.

About three minutes to the west of the site is the prestigious Blue Springs Golf Course. An elementary school is also within walking distance.



This home on a 47-ft. lot starts at \$164,900 (elev. B). Solmar is also offering a mortgage package of 6.95% for three years, which applies to the full amount of the mortgage, even if you only put 5% down. This is a time limited offer.

Although the Solmar Homes sales office is located on the northeast corner of Steeles Ave. and Trafalgar Rd., starting this weekend, there is also a sales agent on site to show visitors the layout of the lots and to answer questions Acton residents may have about the community.

Builder rated Excellent

Lakeside Estates features bungalows, two-storeys, backsplits and California-style homes on 47-ft. lots. Standard features include clay brick brass coachlamps and high-efficiency furnaces.

Solmar Homes has been building in southern Ontario for over a decade. They continue to earn an Excellent rating for after-sales service from the Ontario New Home Warranty Program.

The sales office is open Monday to Thursday 1-8 p.m.; and weekends and holidays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call (905) 878-3004.

6.95% financing for three years — homes on 47-ft. lots from \$164,900