

New committee will address Acton quarry expansion

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Town Council is not satisfied with a decades-old rehabilitation plan for the Acton Quarry and has struck a committee to discuss a new plan with United Aggregates Limited (UAL).

The only rehabilitation items in

a 1972 site plan agreement for mined-out parts of the quarry south of Acton deal with trees, grading and grass, but at least three Councillors think the site plan should be revised to include "such things like a lake, wetlands area, treed areas and parklands."

Councillors Pam Johnson,

Marilyn Serjeantson and Acton's Rick Bonnette recommended the committee be struck after meeting with UAL officials last week to discuss expansion plans at the quarry.

The rehabilitation issue surfaced with UAL'S application for a temporary controlled crossing of Re-

gional Road 43 so quarry operations can be extended to the licensed area on the south side of the road.

Most of the aggregate in the north quarry has been depleted and currently between 750 and 1,000 trucks a day travel 900 metres east and west on Regional

Road 43, moving between the south pit and the processing plant to the north.

Eventually UAL wants to build a bridge over the road but in the interim asked that flagmen be able to stop traffic at a new single crossing.

Councillor Bonnette supports UAL's temporary plan for a level crossing with flag men.

"This is a safety issue and the level crossing is the way to go for now," Bonnette said.

"We've got to remember that UAL is an industry just like any other in our community. They employ 65 people, most of them from Acton, with a \$2.5 million dollar payroll.

"They are willing to participate with us in a rehabilitation plan and I think it's time to get rid of a lot of negativity about that quarry," Bonnette said.

So far the Town has spent more than three-quarters of a million dollars to fight plans by Reclamation Systems Incorporated to use the mined-out portion of the UAL quarry for a massive landfill site.

Following an appeal from Acton resident Doris Mittwoolen, Town Council agreed that citizen input will be important on a newly-struck committee.

Mittwoolen, pleased that the public will be involved in long-term rehabilitation plans for the quarry, still has concerns about the temporary truck crossing.

"There is no mention of a limit to the number of trucks that may cross the road per hour, and there is no mention of who the flag people will give priority to — the trucks or regular road traffic," Mittwoolen said.

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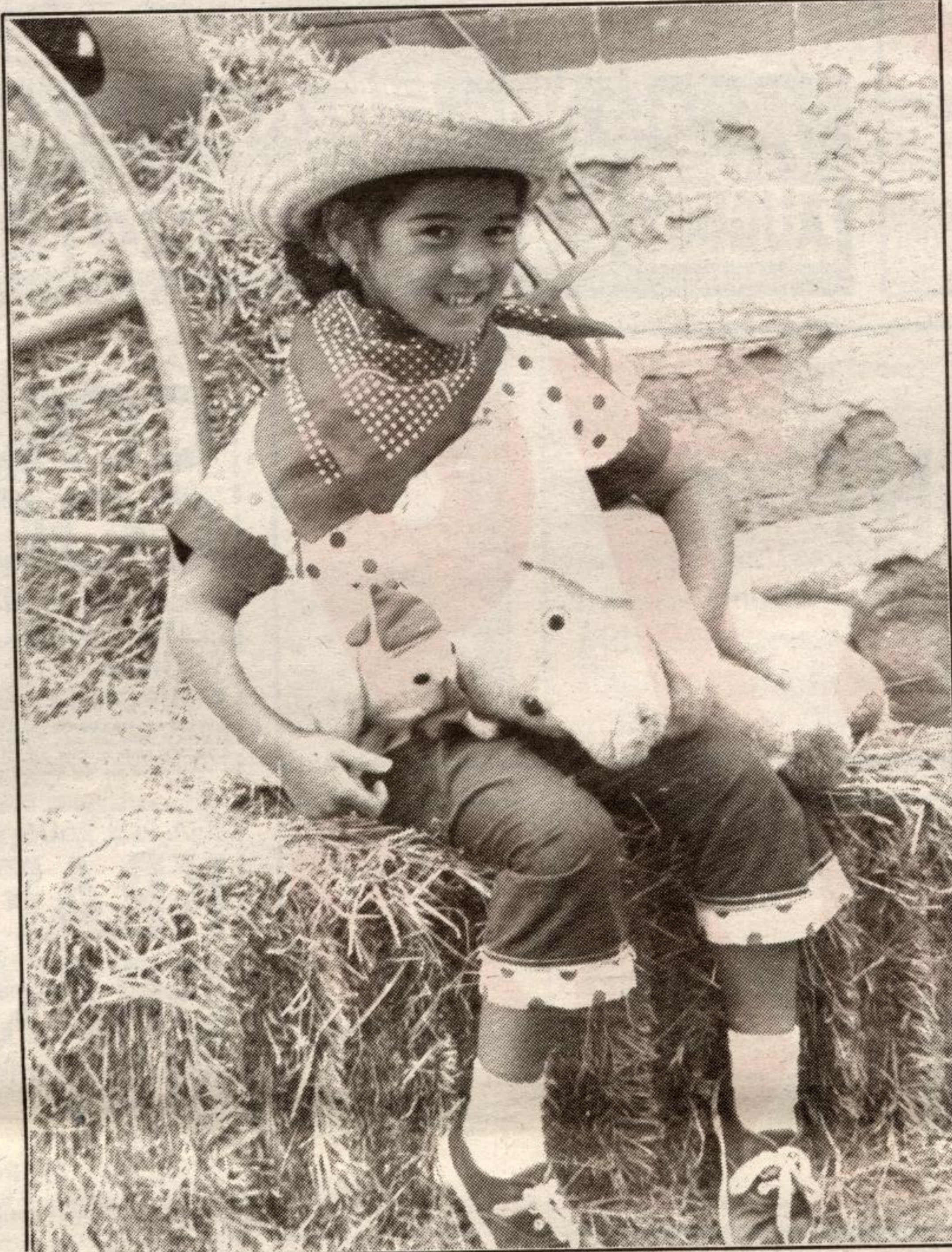
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COWGIRL! Myra Dionne, 5, posed with a couple of her close friends at the Son Country Farm vacation bible school at the Baptist Church on Friday. Some 62 youngsters, ages 4 to 12, attended the fifth annual camp. (Doug Harrison photo)



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Actonites upset over uncut weeds

MUNICIPAL DIGEST

Acton allergy sufferers can breathe a little easier.

Faced with a huge file of unanswered complaints from sneezing and watery-eyed ratepayers, Town Council hired a Weed Inspector to cut a swath through this year's complaints of noxious weeds on private land.

Budget-induced staff cuts last year meant the weed inspector's contract was not filled and now there are 221 unanswered complaints waiting for action and 164 active files and Acton Councillor Gerald Rennie told Council on Monday night that the complaints keep coming in.

"I had two calls about uncut weeds in Acton just before Council tonight. Both asked me to support hiring this inspector."

If property owners don't cut noxious weeds the Town has the authority to do so and add the cost to the property taxes.

Meat market meeting

Saying he wants Council to "fish or cut bait" Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette called for speedy action on a report concerning plans for a new meat market in Town.

A public meeting will be held on Oct. 3 on Al and Janet Cunneyworth's plans to build a two-storey commercial-residential building at their home at 70 Main St. N.

Bonnette told Council on Monday night that he would like a report on that public meeting before the municipal election in November.

"If we don't deal with it before the election it will be delayed until after the inauguration of the new Council in December. If it doesn't come back until January these people (the Cunneyworths) would lose

a lot of time and energy," Bonnette said.

The application faces an up-hill battle as three Town departments have a long list of concerns including that the application does not meet requirements such as parking, landscaping, circulation, amenity space and buffering in proposing to fit a mixed use building on a small site.



HAPPY 90TH, DORA!

Florence Allan, right, wishes Dora Kennedy a happy 90th birthday at a reception for friends and family at Knox church on Sunday. (Lori Frechette photo)

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