



**BACK-TO-SCHOOL B-B-Q!**

Dad Tim O'Connor is flanked by his daughters, Amanda, 8, and 4-year-old Nicole, who both enjoyed munching on some tasty potato chips at St. Joseph's Separate School's annual back-to-school barbecue on Thursday. (Doug Harrison photo)

**Rural estates rejected — for now**

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Acton Tanner

In a closed vote, Halton Hills General Committee members have rejected a proposed 20-lot estate subdivision in rural Acton.

With one councillor absent, committee members deadlocked with a 6-6 tie vote on the proposed Williams development on the east side of Town Line between 17 and 22 Sideroads.

In the case of a tie vote at committee, the resolution being voted on loses. In this case the resolution was a staff recommendation to approve the subdivision on the basis that it met all of the planning requirements necessary for approval.

The vote ended almost three hours of discussion on the proposal by 20 delegations representing 23 people including area residents and interested parties.

The public delegations mirrored the eventual committee vote with 12 people opposing the plan and 11 supporting it.

Neighbour Ross Pezzack spoke against the proposal: "I have concerns about road upkeep and traffic safety. I am also concerned with water quantity and quality in the area, and I'm worried about possible problems with the proposed septic bed system planned for the subdivision."

Pointing to an earlier 60-name petition opposing the subdivision, Pezzack said the development is an example of poor planning.

"We don't want this proposed development to damage the quiet, rural lifestyle that we have."

Several Acton businessmen, including Ted Lyons of Acton Precision Millwrights, urged committee members to approve the subdivision.

"This subdivision will attract people who will bring business to Acton from other areas. I'm all in favour of this application because I think it's good for Acton," Lyons said.

All three Acton Councillors voted for the proposal, albeit reluctantly.

"I have a dilemma," said Councillor Gerald Rennie. "We have an application that appears to conform to the Official Plan and yet at the same time I have concerns whether the septic system pro-

posed for the subdivision will work."

Pointing to an earlier rural estate subdivision proposal that Council opposed and unsuccessfully defended at the Ontario Municipal Board, Acton Councillor Norm Elliott said he had a feeling of *deja vu*.

"If this goes to the OMB, we may have to spend \$150,000 to learn the same lesson that we learned on the other rural estate subdivision and I can't go along with that," Elliott said.

"I can't say to people out there that I want to plunk 20 houses down in that area but a lot of the concerns raised by area residents and some Councillors have been addressed."

Council will deal with the General Committee report next Monday and the outcome could change depending on the vote of the Georgetown Councillor, who was absent from Monday's meeting.

**Action meets**

Action for Acton, our community's business-and-citizen volunteer activist group, holds its monthly meeting tonight (Wednesday) at Andy's Restaurant. Time

for the gathering is 8:30.

The Action for Acton group has been meeting since last year. Under the leadership of resident Jack Carpenter, they wrapped up a series of successful Trunk Sales on Saturday.



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*Halton Hills Community*



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