

Lawsuit vs. Town is investigated

The Town's insurer is now investigating the \$7 million lawsuit filed against the Town and Councillors by Equity Waste Management.

No one at Frank Cowan Insurance in Princetown, Ont. would comment on the claim that seeks exemplary, punitive and aggravated damages against the Town and Councillors over its actions concerning freezing development in the Highway 401-Steeles corridor.

Town Treasurer Andy Koop-

mans said the Town pays premiums of approximately \$75,000 a year for coverage against such suits.

"Our insurance policy provides coverage to Council for liability in the conduct of their duties as Councillors.

"Our insurer has indicated that the issue of punitive damages is something that runs outside our policy and it would be the same for the Town. Punitive damages are intended to punish, and you're

not going to find an insurance carrier who will provide that kind of coverage," Koopmans explained.

In a related issue, last Tuesday Town council voted to appeal an Ontario Court ruling that quashed the development freeze by-law.

In that ruling the Judge said the Town "acted in bad faith" in passing the interim control by-law and was more concerned about getting re-elected in the upcoming municipal election than in good planning.



EASY RIDER! Church Street resident Russ Johnston and his trusty Ford tractor are a familiar sight to many Actonites.

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NEXT TO PRO HARDWARE

'Tractor man' now a familiar sight in town

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Imagine trading in your car for a shiny new ... tractor!

That's what Russell Johnston did 30 years ago, and he hasn't sat behind the wheel of a car since

1964, preferring to make his daily ride by way of tractor.

"The tractor's a nice size to get around in. And I only have one payment left to make on it," jokes a friendly Johnston.

He can often be spotted crossing Hwy. 25 at Church Street in the early afternoon, pattering along in his blue Ford 1120 tractor that has all of two gears and reaches 15 mph when foot meets floor.

Johnston bought his first Massey Ferguson in 1951 for \$1,600. He's owned 12 tractors since.

He remembers spreading manure around a farm where the Beer Store now sits and being the first Actonite to load manure when he worked on the farm of the late Bert Davidson.

And he recalls his 20-year tenure at the tannery and the days he had to dart home in order to arrive at Massey Ferguson before closing time.

"I would get home from the tannery at 5:30 pm and have to be in Erin before 6," he says. "I would hop on the tractor and drive the three miles (from his farm in rural Acton) to get there at 5:45 pm."

Now, the 74-year-old Church Street man hires himself and his tractor to local people who need their gardens tilled. He tilled 10 area gardens last year.

"It's just something to do. You can't do a garden with a car!"

Johnston was forced to sell his biggest tractor, the 135 model, two years ago, when knee troubles deemed a tractor with no gear shift to be necessary.

"It had 24-inch wheels and By God! would it go down the road. It would go like bananas."

One of the only drawbacks to driving his tractor is the haul down Hwy. 25 to Acton Esso, the closest station that offers diesel fuel.

For most, it might be an inconvenience. For Russell Johnston, though, it's something to do.

Dan C. Dolliver
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I will finish off my list of mail fraud crimes and how to prevent them. Pay close attention Seniors!

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Any retirement estates offered at conspicuously low prices to "lucky" individuals are usually fraudulent and should be avoided.

Business Opportunities:
Business opportunities and work-at-home schemes which promise high profits after a substantial investment or registration fee are often fraudulent.

Medical Frauds:
Fake laboratory tests, miracle cures, and mail order clinics etc. are other ways schemed to defraud you. Legitimate doctors and hospitals do not advertise through the mail.

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