

# Rural family's land split killed by Town Council

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Acton Tanner

An emotional plea by rural Acton resident Linda Taras was not enough to convince Halton Hills Council to support her land severance application.

Town Council voted 7-6 to appeal a Halton Land Division Com-

mittee (LDC) decision that would have allowed Taras to sever a 3.6 hectare parcel of land from her property on the Township of Nassagaweya and Esquesing Town Line, north of 17 Sideroad.

Taras applied for the severance so her recently-married daughter, who is currently living with her,

could build a home on the land where the family has lived for 21 years.

Although the LDC had rejected an earlier severance application by the Taras family, committee members approved the most recent application in a 7-1 vote, in part because of the Town's approval of a rural sub-division just north of the Taras property, and also based on compassionate grounds.

Several councillors were also swayed by Taras's story of family illness, a bankruptcy and a divorce, but in the end a slim majority supported an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board of the LDC ap-

proval of the application.

Town and Regional planning staff recommend refusal of the severance because it does not meet the criteria for a non-farm residence in a rural area and it may contribute to fragmentation of the rural area and promote more strip development along the Town Line.

Acton councillor Norm Elliott agreed with staff.

"The application was pitched at us primarily as a type of compassionate appeal to help out the family," Elliott said on Friday.

"I wanted to adhere to planning policy, which would not allow this type of severance."

Acton councillor Rick Bonnette

voted in favour of the severance because the land in question is not viable farm land.

"This has unusual circumstances and some compassion has to be used," Bonnette said in an interview last Monday.

"The Land Division Committee, which we hire to make these decisions, voted 7-1 in favour of this severance.

"If we aren't going to accept the LDC decisions then why even bother having that committee?"

Halton Region's Planning and Public Works Committee, and Regional Council, will deal with the LDC decision to approve the severance in the new year.



## INFORMATION

### TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

#### TEMPORARY CLOSURES

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Certain Municipal Offices will close at 1:30 pm on Friday, Dec. 23, 1994 and will remain closed until 8:30 am on Monday, Jan. 2, 1995.

These temporary closures accommodate the statutory holidays and realize some financial savings.

We apologize for any inconvenience which this may cause you.

If you require further information, please contact the Clerk's Office at 873-2600, during regular business hours (until Dec. 22, 1994) or refer to advertisements in the local newspaper.

#### SUMMARY OF CLOSURES:

##### • CIVIC CENTRE

- general inquiries for Mayor's Office and all departments, including the following:
- birth and death registrations
- business and lottery licensing
- customer payments (e.g. taxes)
- marriage licences
- building inspections
- zoning inquiries
- by-law enforcement
- parking tickets
- engineering services
- recreation program inquiries and registrations

##### • SWIMMING POOLS (Acton and Georgetown)

##### • THEATRE AND CULTURAL CENTRE

##### • FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

- Administration
- Training, Education and Research
- Fire Prevention and Inspections

##### • PUBLIC LIBRARIES \* refer to openings (below)

#### THE FOLLOWING SERVICES WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR NORMAL OPERATIONS:

##### • PUBLIC WORKS (873-2600)

- refuse collection
- winter control activities

##### • ARENAS

- Acton Arena (853-0020)
- Georgetown Memorial Arena (877-9612)
- Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena (877-8488)

##### • ANIMAL CONTROL (877-6235)

##### • FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Information (877-1133)

##### • FOR EMERGENCIES:

- FIRE/POLICE/AMBULANCE: DIAL 9-1-1

##### • PUBLIC LIBRARY

\* Acton and Georgetown Branches will be open on Dec. 28 (10:30 am - 8:30 pm), Dec. 29 (10:30 am - 8:30 pm) and Dec. 30 (10:30 am - 5 pm)

**BEST WISHES FOR A  
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HILLS  
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CLOSED FRI. DEC. 23 AT NOON  
CLOSED MON. DEC. 26 AND TUES. DEC. 27  
NORMAL HOURS ON WED. DEC 28 & THURS. DEC. 29  
CLOSED FRI. DEC. 30 AT NOON