

Cops to tour tannery, plan more checks

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Halton Police will tour the former Beardmore tannery site tomorrow (Thursday) as part of an action plan to reduce vandalism at the abandoned property.

A decision to increase police patrols of the site was reached at a meeting last week, attended by police, fire and Town building, zoning and enforcement staff.

Halton Police Superintendent Rick Dawson said although police

statistics don't show a great increase in the number of vandalism complaints at the site, there are concerns that need to be addressed.

"We will increase our perimeter checks of the property and there will be a future meeting with

the owners because we all want to work together and come up with a solution," Dawson said in an interview on Monday.

Halton Hills fire prevention officer John Martin said from a fire perspective the site is safe.

"We will continue to inspect and monitor the site on a regular basis to make sure it meets the Ontario Fire Code regulations," Martin said Monday.

"Although the buildings are made of wood, it is non-combustible heavy timber and beam construction with a minimal fire load."

Martin also said that the storage of cancer-causing PCBs on the property is a "minimal risk."

"The PCBs are stored in approved containers in an approved building that is inspected regularly by the Province, which licensed the storage site. It's as safe as it can be."

In a memo to Town Council, Fire Chief Bill Cunningham said a site visit for Council would be arranged in the next few weeks.

The issue of safety at the site, now believed to be owned by McCain Foods, recently was raised by Acton Councillor Norm Elliott who reported that vandalism at the site is "malicious and continuing."

Bonnette warning

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette is warning fellow politicians to not be fooled by a committee set up to look at restructuring Regional Council.

The Regional Review Subcommittee is looking at the makeup of Halton Council, but Bonnette said it is just a move by Oakville to get one more seat.

"No matter how you sugar-coat it, there is an impetus to take one seat away from Halton Hills and one from Burlington, which they are not willing to give up."

"It's not going to be pretty — if you want to talk about partisan politics, you will really see it on this committee. You have two members from each community on the committee and they are laying out their battle plans."

Bonnette predicted that once Oakville got the additional seat it is after, the remainder of the committee's work will end.



COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENS! Acton's Community Garden, located on Commerce Crescent, held its official ground-breaking on Saturday. Twenty-five-foot plots are still available for just \$10 by calling Cliff Creasey at 853-3349. From left: Wayne Cameron, assistant ranch manager; ranch manager Creasey and Acton Horticultural Society president Max MacSween. (Eve Martin photo)

Mother's Day breakfast

Here's a great idea to kick off this Sunday morning — between 8 and 9:30 Trinity United Church is inviting Acton residents to its special Mother's Day breakfast.

There will be pancakes, bacon, apple cider on the menu, according to organizer Keith Black.

Admission is just \$3 for adults and \$1 for 6 to 12-year-olds.

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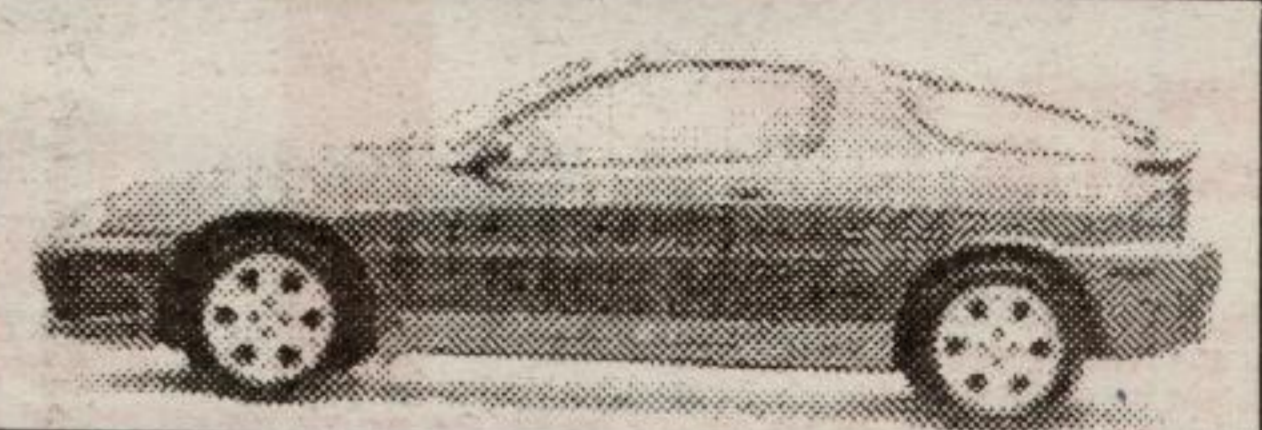
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