

## Birchway resident asks for sidewalks

Birchway Place homeowner Julie Croke hopes that the recent debate over installing sidewalks in the Legion's new subdivision will not cause a rift among neighbours.

Town Council had to settle the issue when 24 residents petitioned the Town, asking that the sidewalks not be built in order to give them longer front lawns and driveways and so they could park two cars in the driveway and avoid winter sidewalk shovelling.

In a letter to Council, Croke said the anti-sidewalk faction is "selfish" and that they ignored the main issue of safety.

"There are 30 children living here that would play on the road if they don't install the sidewalks," Croke said in an interview last Monday.

"This subdivision is only half-built and who's to say that the people who move into those new homes aren't going to want the sidewalks that are supposed to be built in this development? And what about the elderly people who will move into the senior's building?"

In recommending that the sidewalks be installed, Town staff noted that Council would need a "good reason" not to install them and that the Town would have a "perceived liability" in the event on an accident.



**GRADS!** Acton's TEAM (Teenage Education and Motherhood) graduation was held last Wednesday at Acton Baptist Church. From left: Sherry Creighton, 18; Robin McKay, 25, and 4-year-old daughter Sybian; Shannon McAfee, 19; Susan Cashmore, 26, and daughters Katelynn, 5, and Paige, 3; Stephanie Parker, 22; and Kim McIsaac, 19. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Imperial to sell gas station site

Imperial Oil will probably sell its former Esso gas station on Mill Street at the railway tracks.

Two-year-old plans to re-develop the gas station have been scrapped by Imperial because of "poor market conditions."

"Once demolition and site cleanup are complete the property

will be transferred from Imperial's active automotive group to its land development group, which, I imagine, will put the property up for sale," said Imperial spokesman Greg Ford in an interview on Monday.

"If we thought that the site was going to be of some use to us in the

future we would keep it in the land bank, but 99 per cent of the sites that get transferred to the land group are sold," Ford said.

Imperial closed the Acton station a little more than two years ago. The site has remained vacant until demolition work began on the building 10 days ago.

## Upgrades unveiled

The public is invited to comment on and question Halton Region's proposed multi-million dollar upgrade plan for the Third Line sewage treatment plant, at an open house next Wednesday.

The upgrades will allow Acton to grow by 35 per cent, to a population of 10,000, by improving the quality of effluent discharged from the plant into Black Creek.

The open house will be held at Acton High from 4 pm to 8 pm.



Len Tuitman & Staff present...

## Green Thumb Gardening

### Ground Covers

Our lawns are ground cover. However, steep slopes, rocky terrain and deep shade under trees can be troublesome areas to establish a lawn. Ground covers other than turf grass do not have to be regularly maintained and their dense foliage suppress weeds. In addition, many have evergreen foliage and attractive flowers providing colourful, low maintenance solutions for areas unsuitable to grass. The following is a sample of some ground cover plants.

**Ajuga** or **Bugleweed** has bronze/green or variegated foliage that form a dense mat in sunny or shady locations and small spikes of blue flowers in spring. **Crown Vetch** can reach a height of 15" and is excellent on steep, sunny slopes due to its quickly spreading deep root system. Once established it withstands heat and drought and its pink flowers continue to bloom for months.

**Goutweed**'s variegated white and green foliage contrasts with other plants and in partial shade grows up to a foot.

**Periwinkle** or **Myrtle** has small, oval, evergreen leaves on creeping stems, thrives in sun or shade and produces purple/blue flowers in midspring.

**Pachysandra** or **Japanese Spurge** has evergreen foliage with creamy white flowers in late-spring. Especially useful in the heavy shade of Maple trees, it can reach a height of 8-10 inches.

**Cotoneaster**, a low growing, broadleaf, evergreen shrub, produces an abundance of white flowers in the spring and red berries in the fall and thrives in sunny to partially shaded areas.

Each week Len Tuitman and staff of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden showplace.

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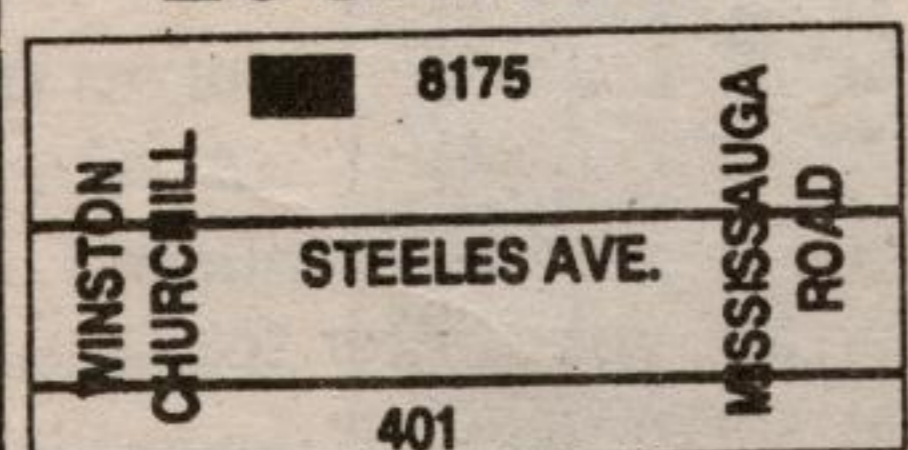
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