

Parkette talks break down

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

After three years of fruitless negotiations, the Acton BIA has discontinued talks with Toronto lawyer Ted Rachlin, who had expressed an interest in donating the parkette and an adjoining property at the corner of Mill and Main streets as a memorial to his father, the original owner and former Acton mayor, Ben Rachlin.

Ben Rachlin was mayor for one year in 1950, a member of Council and owned a men's clothing store and jewelry store in Acton.

The BIA expressed its interest in receiving the donation and all that was needed for the transaction to happen was a receipt of the appraised land.

Local real estate broker Gord Dawe appraised the L-shaped property at \$41,000. Rachlin disagreed with that appraisal. Steven Sax, a real-estate appraiser from Georgetown, then came in at \$47,000. This figure was met with doubt by Rachlin. The Region then appraised the lot at \$48,500. Rachlin continued to balk.

Rachlin then hired his own appraiser, a company based in Hamilton. The BIA reportedly was open to the idea and offered to pay the eventual \$1,086 cost, despite having reservations about exceeding a fee of \$850.

However, when the firm appraised the property at \$100,000, it became an issue of "integrity."

"The YMCA building went for \$85,000 and it's 1 1/2 times the size of the parkette," BIA secretary Gerald Rennie argued on Friday.

"We weren't stumbling on prices - we were stumbling on integrity."

To which Rachlin shot back on Monday: "My integrity is every bit as great as anyone's at the Town."

In short, the \$100,000 tax receipt was never given to Rachlin at the end of May for fear that it would not be accepted by Revenue Canada, Rennie explained.

"That's nonsense," Rachlin retorted.

Asked about the relatively high appraisal offered by the Hamilton firm, Rachlin explained that "(the Region's) appraisal was not based on reasonable considerations. I suggested I was willing to meet with the Town people, but I wasn't taken up on that."

Rennie contended that Rachlin was reluctant to accept the lower appraisals and said the parkette would have a different look today had things been different.

"We would probably have the memorial plaque of Ben Rachlin up today if the appraisal came between \$48,000 and \$60,000," Rennie said.

Rachlin defended his decision to not budge, saying he was offended by the way the Town handled the matter.

"My father was very fond of Acton. He spent most of his years there," Rachlin commented from his Toronto office. "It seemed appropriate to donate the land to the BIA rather than sell it privately, but I guess some people didn't have the same interest."

Rachlin said that he is not interested in resuming negotiations. But, Rachlin added, if a BIA or Town member is interested in approaching him, he's prepared to discuss the matter.

NEWS SHORTS

Three B&Es on Mill Street

Three Mill Street East businesses were entered over the weekend, and police believe the crimes are connected.

In each case the front door locks were forced open, drawers and cupboards were rummaged through, and the shops were ransacked.

Profile Hair and Skin Care Clinic also had a small amount of cash stolen, Freezer Frenzy sustained some \$150 in damage, and Acton Travel had \$25 damage done to the door.

Police to get tower power

Halton Police will install three or four antennas on the Churchill Road Fire Station communications tower as part of the police's regional trunked radio communications system.

Council has approved a 10-year agreement that includes a \$1,000 annual payment to the Town for the use of the tower.

Board laments 'difficult times'

The Halton Board of Education says that it is pleased with the recent Fact Finder's Report "because it provides a third party opinion to support the action the Board has been attempting in these difficult times."

The report indicates that a long and bitter strike action is likely if the Board and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation cannot resolve their differences.

The Board quoted the report's finding that "the school board is now dominated by trustees who deeply believe that education taxes are too high and are committed to doing something about that fact."

Van window smashed

Two hundred dollars. That's what it will cost to replace the rear window of a 1986 Ford van that was left unattended for 45 minutes last Tuesday.

The van was parked on McDonald Boulevard between 1 and 1:45 pm when something was thrown through the window, leaving a three-inch hole.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"My advice is to keep believing in your dream, take active steps towards making it happen, and keep plugging away."

— Ian Corson, movie director and former Actonite, Page 4

DID YOU KNOW?

Pigs are the only mammals that get sunburned just like humans.

Fun day

On Saturday the Residents' Association at the Village Manor and Parkside rest homes are holding a Family Fun Day fundraiser.

Prizes for all ages can be won at games, penny tables and bake and yard sales.

The event takes place at 15 Main St. N. from 9 am to 5 pm. Don't miss it!

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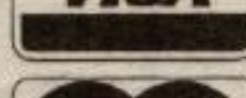
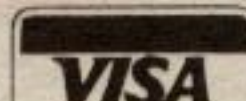
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Sat. 9:30-5:30/Sun. 10-2

Closed: Mondays



SUMMER FAMILY PROGRAMS

AT TERRA COTTA CONSERVATION AREA

OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY Lakes & Streams

Sunday, July 16, 10 am to 4 pm.

Rain date July 23

Cost: \$20 per person

Suitable for adults and children (12 yrs & older)

Preregistration required

Learn the mysteries of outdoor photography as a professional shares tips about taking pictures of water landscapes. Learn about the use of various lenses and tripods and how exposure time and film speed can be adjusted to suit the setting.

TURTLE TALK

Sunday, July 23, 1 pm to 4 pm

Cost: \$5 per adult, \$3 per child

Suitable for adults and children

(5 years and up)

The turtles of Terra Cotta are featured in this action-packed family program! Meet the live turtles at the Visitor Centre, then join the staff naturalist for a walk to the lakes and ponds these reptiles call home. Visit a snapping turtle nursery and learn what we can do to help our turtle friends.

In 1995, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority is presenting a series of Sunday programs at Terra Cotta Conservation Area. The programs are either full day or half day events and most are suitable for both children and adults; appropriate age levels are listed in the program descriptions. A few programs are offered on both Saturday and Sunday. All programs start from the Visitor Centre in the Terra Cotta Conservation Area. For information or to register call (905) 877-9650 Ext. 22.