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TAKING TIME TO SMELL THE LILIES!

Five-year-old Charlotte Tribble says she likes the tiger lilies the best in mom Karen's garden, on the Fourth Line north of Hwy. 7. It was one of the six gardens on display last Sunday for the Acton Horticultural Society's garden tour. The Tribbles also took first place in the rural streetfront showstopper category in the Society's "Show Us Your Bloomers" contest. (Karen Wetmore photo)

Canadian Tire may pay for fire call

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

The Canadian Tire Corporation is willing to talk to the Town about paying for a fire call to a propane leak at its abandoned Acton store on Sunday, June 30.

The fire department blocked off several streets as they contained the propane that leaked from the store's

filling tank when someone cut a hose in an attempt to steal the brass nozzle.

On Monday, Alan Goddard, vice-president of corporate affairs for Canadian Tire, said he was not aware of a call by Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette to see if the Corporation could be charged over the incident, or at least made to pay for the

emergency response.

"We'd be delighted to have them [the Town] talk to us about it [paying compensation]," Goddard said. "We're open to having a discussion."

Bonnette said he was "pleased" to hear Canadian Tire was willing to talk about paying for the fire call and that he was waiting for a report from the fire chief.

Chief Bill Cunningham said they are "still putting the pieces together."

"We found the cabinet at the tank unlocked when we got there. We don't know if it was left unlocked or if the suspect opened it.

"When we determine the exact cost to the Town for the fire call, we will speak to Canadian Tire."

Used car lot cleaned up, no charges

It looks like an Acton business owner has avoided possible court charges and finally cleaned up his used car lot at the Young and Queen Street curve.

Braun Management was given until today (Wednesday) to complete a clean up of derelict cars, litter, brush and debris at the site, which abuts several angry neighbours who have complained that the site, the former Beaver gas station, is a hazard and an eyesore.

Those relentless complaints prompted Town Council to consider legal action against the occupant and to ask staff to investigate beefing up the Town's licensing by-law to require that all cars on used car lots be operable.

Two memos obtained by *The Tanner* between staff and the mayor said staff would be unable to catch illegal activities on the site, such as cars being repaired, unless they "camped out" and waited to catch someone "red-handed."

Town by-law enforcement officer Ron Stein said the occupant is now complying with Town demands.

"Seventy-five per cent of the items on the clean-up list have been done and no charges will be laid if the remainder of the list is complete when I do my next inspection," Stein explained last Thursday.

The highway commercial zoning on the property allows the sale of used cars and car parts, as long as they are not parts scavenged off cars on the lot and Stein said that

the occupant must also have a parts inventory.

Both neighbours Ray Arbic and Lloyd Robinson complained bitterly that they got little or no help from the Town in their fight to have the occupant comply with the Town zoning by-laws.

"This took a year to resolve, plain and simple, because of the lack of Council's help and lack of effort put in by our hired honchos [Town staff]," Robinson said in a recent interview.

Arbic described the Town's handling of the issue as "gutless."


"Any citizen who has been elected to an office should have the gumption to look at a situation and make a decision," Arbic said Sunday.

"If you don't have the guts to make decisions, how is staff going to get the guts? It has to come from your elected officials and I think Council was very gutless."

Stein said the only outstanding issue now is an Ontario Municipal Board hearing into the owners' rejected application to use the second storey of the building for an apartment.

Stein also said that although the site had been cleaned up "the big thing now is if it will be kept up."

"If I get any more complaints, charges will be laid immediately," Stein said.



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