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'ACTON'S OWN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER'

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1996

THE



he proposed sale of a large portion of the McKenzie-Smith Bennett property causes Acton parents to raise their concerns

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51-lot subdivision is ready to proceed, on the old drag strip property on Hwy. 7 between the Fifth and Sixth Lines

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ow that the Fire Department has moved its headquarters to Churchill Road, Heritage Acton wants the Town to sell the old fire hall building to be used as a theatre ...Page 6

eed a profes sional to check out energy loss in your home? Want to visit a good restaurant? Check out these special advertising sections!

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ecreational base ball season fin ishes up for Ladies' softball league

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Between Dump deal questioners criticized

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner

Three delegations who dared question the deal that killed the Acton Quarry dump proposal were chastised for their "cranky criticism" by Acton Councillor Gerald Rennie at last week's Town Council meeting.

Without naming names, Rennie also said he'd been lied to at the meeting, the first public airing of the pact.

"Amazingly, instead of rejoicing in recognition of this achievement we witness a parade of persons purporting to represent the public, offering opinions ranging from outright criticism that we made a major mistake to reluctant support," Rennie said.

Both Pat Woode, of Ecology Awareness Group Landscape and Environment (E.A.G.L.E.) and Barbara Halsall, past-president of Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (P.O.W.-E.R.), voiced concerns about potential environmental impacts from the recycling of reclaimed asphalt pavement, known as RAP, which the deal does not prohibit at United Aggregates Limited's (UAL) quarry south of Acton. Acton's Jean Hilborn urged Council not to formalize the deal until it protected the groundwater in the area.

P.O.W.E.R. was in on early negotiations but was frozen out of the talks by UAL when a draft copy of the pact was leaked to The Tanner and, while Halsall commended Council for seeing the dump issue "to the bitter end," she added the "excessive secrecy" was taking the joy out of it.

For the record, Halsall denied that P.O.W.E.R. leaked the draft and alleged that a member Town Staff or Town Council was the source.

"P.O.W.E.R. was disappointed that the Town did not take advice or assistance that P.O.W.E.R. was willing to offer... it would have been nice for more people to have a little input to this," Halsall said, adding they were concerned with RAP recycling and the proposed conveyance of Regional Road 43 and Third Line to UAL.

"This is a significant achievement, but it's clear there are a still a number of issues to resolve and P.O.W.-E.R. will be here to monitor and assist in those issues as best we can," she said.

Rennie was unhappy with Halsall's version of the closed door talks and later said that while he'd never told a lie in the Council Chambers, he'd heard one that night.

Concerning RAP, Town counsel Stephen D'Agostino said the Town was taking a "neutral" position on RAP recycling, but had not prevented it, and if it was shown that UAL needed a permit to recycle RAP, the Town could still comment on the proposal.

For D'Agostino the appeal of the deal was the fact that there can never be a landfill in the quarry.

"In my wildest dreams I never could have won that for the municipality," D'Agostino explained, adding while the deal killed all private proposals, there was one caveat-provincial power to expropriate land.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott said that he supported and was "very comfortable" with the deal and congratulated D'Agostino for his tremendous amount of insight, and staff and P.O.W.E.R. for their hard work.

All Town Councillors except Ward 2 Councilor Rob Heaton voted in favour of the bylaw formalizing the deal.



TEAMWORK!

Mike and Robert Kellas show determination on their faces as they head towards the finish line at Acton Foodland's first annual Soap Box Derby last Sunday at St. Joseph's school. The brothers and Gavin and Nigel Williams won for best car design. (Jennifer Flesch photo)

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