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THE TANNER

NEW

Your Hometown Newspaper

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What's Inside



What do you do when a large helicopter lands in your pasture? Find out on Page 3.



Acton seniors held a picnic at Prospect Park despite the hot, sticky weather. Enjoying relaxation beside Fairy Lake are Jim Hall, Nancy Hall and Julie Curry. More photos on Page 6.



Canada Day was lots of fun at Prospect Park where Lilreta Ladd enjoys the wading pool before the fireworks in the evening. Thousands attended. More Canada Day celebrations on Page 8.



Fall Fair posters from 1914, some real memorabilia, are on sale. See Page 5.

Hardware store plans endorsed



THIS WAY FOLKS: Former Town Councillor Gerald Rennie lead the Historical Tour for this year's Sample Fest on Canada Day. More photos inside. — Angela Tyler photo

Council ignores planners

Over the objections of their planning staff, Town councillors have unanimously voted not to appeal a Committee of Adjustment decision that approved plans for an 8,000-square foot Home Hardware store on the south-east corner of Queen Street and Churchill Road.

Planning staff had recommended that councillors appeal the recent Committee of Adjustment decision that approved a minor variance for the proposal, but on Monday night general committee members chose to ignore that advice and let the Committee's approval stand.

Although the Town's Official Plan allows the proposed hardware store and garden centre uses, the uses are not allowed under the current zoning and the applicant, Home Hardware president Bill Manes of Acton, asked for a minor variance instead of going through the longer rezoning process.

Town staff argued that the minor variance doesn't satisfy the intent and purpose of the current zoning and are concerned that the site could be over developed.

"You could end up with a development on that site that you don't like," warned Planning Director Bruce MacLean while acknowledging that from an economic development point of view the proposal would be good for the eastern gateway of Acton.

Planning staff are worried that the site isn't large enough to handle the required 27 parking spaces and landscaping, issues councillors feel can be resolved through the Town's site plan process. The Committee of Adjustment's approval included the condition that a site plan would have to be approved by the Town.

Acton Councillor Clark Somerville led support to not appeal the Committee's decision, arguing he was worried.

See NEW, Page 2

Children's Aid silent on tragedy

Court case results in many questions

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Too little, too late is a common reaction among Acton residents to the 21-month sentence handed to an Acton father last Thursday in a Brampton court for starving his daughter.

James Clayton, 30, pleaded guilty to failing to provide the necessities of life to his oldest child, who is not toilet trained, can only speak five words and in the opinion of a social worker, will never function as a normal, healthy girl or even as an adult. The child's mother, 38-year-old Maryanne McCutcheon, who reportedly has the intellectual ability of a 6 to 8-year-old, was placed on three years probation for child neglect. She since has had a tubal ligation.

The horror is compounded by the knowledge that the Halton Children's

Aid Society and other social agencies visited the family in Acton 48 times before a nurse at the Georgetown hospital noticed in 1995 that something was very wrong and got the girl the help that saved her life.

In a press release on Monday the Halton CAS declined to comment on the case.

"The reported circumstances of a young child's

neglect at the hands of her parents is of deep and serious concern to me, as acting executive director of the Halton CAS," Gail Vandermeulen said.

"Since most of the Society's staff who were involved with this child are no longer employed by the Society, and since then I was not responsible for this case, I have undertaken an internal review

of the Society's actions at this time," Vandermeulen said, adding that she won't have anything to say until the internal review is completed.

At least one Acton woman wishes she had not kept silent about the lack of care the little girl was getting in the 33 months that she was with her parents, who lived on welfare and McCutcheon's disability pension.

A waitress at a Mill Street restaurant frequented almost daily by the parents said that she and other staff used to try to slip the girl crackers when her parents weren't looking.

"She (the girl) used to go from table to table mooching food because her parents wouldn't feed her," the waitress remembered. "If I'd spoken up sooner maybe things would have turned out differently for the girl. Never again will I keep quiet if I see a child being mistreated. Never again."

Biker lucky in Acton accident


An Acton woman was charged with making an improper left turn after coming in collision with a motorcycle at the intersection of Church Street and Maria Street last Wednesday afternoon. Halton police said that the motorcyclist, a Norval man, was "very lucky" to have escaped with just bumps, bruises and abrasions in the crash which demolished his \$4,000 Kawasaki and caused approximately \$2,000 to the car, a Pontiac Sunbird.

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