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WELCOME TO ACTON

JOHN DAVIDSON GOOD LUCK WITH MESSSES JOURNEY



LEATHERTOWN FESTIVAL SU 9 11AM - 5PM

IT'S WORTH THE WALK: Cross Canada walker John Davidson is welcomed to Acton by Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson. Davidson is raising funds for genetic research. See Pages 2-3 for more. — Angela Tyler photo

Leathertown Festival here on Sunday

Mill Street will again be the venue for Acton's 7th Annual Leathertown Festival this Sunday, August 9. The street will be closed to traffic from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Traffic will be rerouted on Highway 7 to accommodate entertainment, games, sidewalk sales and craft booths.

The festival officially opens at 12 noon on the main stage at Mill and Elgin Streets with Halton Hills Mayor Serjeantson. The stage will be busy all afternoon with dancers and music. Ongoing entertainment will also take place at the showcase band stage at Mill and Fellows Streets.

There will be plenty of shopping to do at this year's festival, with downtown stores setting up sidewalk sales, including Paintin' Friends, Lakeview Flooring and Kitchens, Acton IGA, Bargains Bazaar, Halton Hills Furniture, Country Reflections, Acton Home Hardware and more.

Crafts and artisans products will also be displayed and on sale including wrought iron, jewellery,

wood, candles, leather, stained glass, dolls, perogies, cow bells, tarot card readings, T-shirts, etc.

With so much to do, it's amazing it can all fit into one day and it's a great day to meet your friends.

Exotic pet law promised

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette refuses to let Town staff to continue to slither out of answering his repeated requests for a Town bylaw to govern exotic pets. Recent reports that a King constrictor snake was loose in the Bower Street area and a report showing that a request from Bonnette six years ago for a report on an exotic pet bylaw still hasn't been done prompted the councillor to press for action.

Bonnette, who admitted that the issue has become his pet peeve, said he first asked for the report after a man with a boa constrictor wrapped around his neck startled a lot of people, including himself, at the Acton Fall Fair in 1992.

"Last year there was a story of a report of a king constrictor loose on Maple Avenue and last year the Ward 2 councillors got calls from the public about an exotic dancer with a tiger that got loose and now there's a snake loose on Bower," Bonnette said at Tuesday's general committee meeting, adding that it shouldn't take six years to get a report.

"One of these days we're going to have a real incident,

See PET, Page 2

They're coming — tax bills out soon

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

The Town hopes to issue its long overdue final tax bills for 1988 before August 21 with due dates of September 28 and October 28. They can expect lots of calls from concerned and questioning ratepayers when the bills arrive.

A combination of provincial changes in education taxes, the impacts of provincial downloading and provide-wide property tax reassessment will mean significant dollar changes and shifts of tax burdens for both residential and commercial properties. Reassessment in urban Acton will result in higher taxes for 58 per cent of residential properties. Over half of Acton's commercial properties will pay more due to reassessment while 42 per cent will pay less.

Cumulative impacts of the Town's budget, reassessment and funding changes from Queen's Park means a 4.27 per cent tax increase for residential properties in Acton and a 4.70 per cent increase

for residential properties in the rural area.

At Monday's general committee meeting Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette asked Town Treasurer Andy

Koopmans to explain the difference in the rural and urban tax increases.

Noting that the Town's portion of the tax increase is just .08 per cent, Koopmans

explained that the differences are due to a decrease in waste management costs that rural residents don't pay.

"A slight decrease in the waste management costs helped offset the balance of the increase for the urban residents. Overall the urban residents still pay more in taxes for an equivalent property than a rural resident but the actual tax rate is less in the rural area," Koopmans explained.

Based on an average residential unit with an assessed value of \$185,000, taxes for a rural Acton resident are \$2,659 for last year — a 4.2 per cent or \$109 increase. Property taxes for a rural Acton residential property are \$2,516 — a 4.7 per cent increase or \$113 more than the year before.

Residential property owners facing increases of more than 15 per cent or \$300 will be able to take advantage of a tax phase-in program. Commercial and industrial properties facing assessment-relayed tax increases will also be able to apply for rebates.

What's in a name?

Esquesing's first pioneer settler, Morgan Crewson, will be honoured with a street bearing his name — Morgan Drive — in a proposed rural subdivision in Crewson's Corners, leading Acton Councillor Norm Elliott to question whether new street names in Halton Hills must have some historical importance.

Elliott said he didn't want to insult the Esquesing Historical Society which has traditionally provided suggested names for new streets to the Town. He was told it is the practice, but not written policy, for the Society to provide historically-significant names for streets in new developments and then staff recommends a name to Council.

"There are a number of communities around that have adopted more far-reaching sources for names instead of just relying on a historical connection," Elliott said at Monday's general committee meeting. "I'm not suggesting that we get into competing with Brampton which has street names like Hind Quarter Drive but there are other street names possible such as Maple Leaf Avenue."

While council accepted a list of historically-based names for several new subdivisions, several councillors supported Elliott's suggestion. Ward 2 Councillor Kevin Kuiuack suggested the Town could honour its Olympic athletes by naming streets after them.

What's Inside

Mike O'Leary examines the differences between U.S. and Canadian leaders on Page 5. Hold your belly button!

Look on Pages 6 and 7 for the Leathertown Festival program, and look at those sponsors!

Police warn about counterfeit bills. See Page 11.

Sports, of course, are on Page 9.

Hurry In For TOYOTA'S Sharpest Deals!



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