

Traffic study to count trucks on Churchill Road South

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Some Churchill Road residents hope a Town traffic study will prove there's a need to restore a heavy vehicle ban - especially gravel trucks - on the road.

Their complaints about trucks and the deteriorating shape of the road prompted

staff to update a two-year old traffic count that showed the prohibition wasn't needed because just three per cent of the vehicles using the road were over 5,000-tons.

In a letter asking the Town to reinstate the truck ban Churchill Road resident Michelle Johnstone complained that the trucks are unsafe, noisy and are ruining the road.

"Our peace and quiet has been disturbed nightly, our cars have been put at risk and of infinitely grater concern, our children have been unnecessarily put at risk by the increased traffic from the quarry," Johnstone wrote.

"This summer was terrible on the street because the big gravel trucks with the extra gravel box on the back were coming up and down

here," Johnstone said in an interview on Friday.

"All the back roads have signs that say no trucks after 6 p.m. so they use this road. This isn't like a residential area any more - it's like an industrial highway."

Town traffic co-ordinator Bob Butrym said that for 30 years prior to the Acton fire hall being built there was a heavy traffic ban on Church-

ill Road.

"Four years ago we deleted the truck ban from our bylaw because now anyone accessing the quarry would use Highway 25 to the 22 Side Road entrance so the ban serves no real function," Butrym said, adding that "that road is no longer a magnet for quarry trucks."

A 1996 traffic study done showed that 29 of 968 vehi-

cles using the road in one eight-hour period were classified as heavy - over 5,000 tons - and that most of them were school buses.

The town will monitor traffic for one week and count vehicles in three different time periods totalling eight hours between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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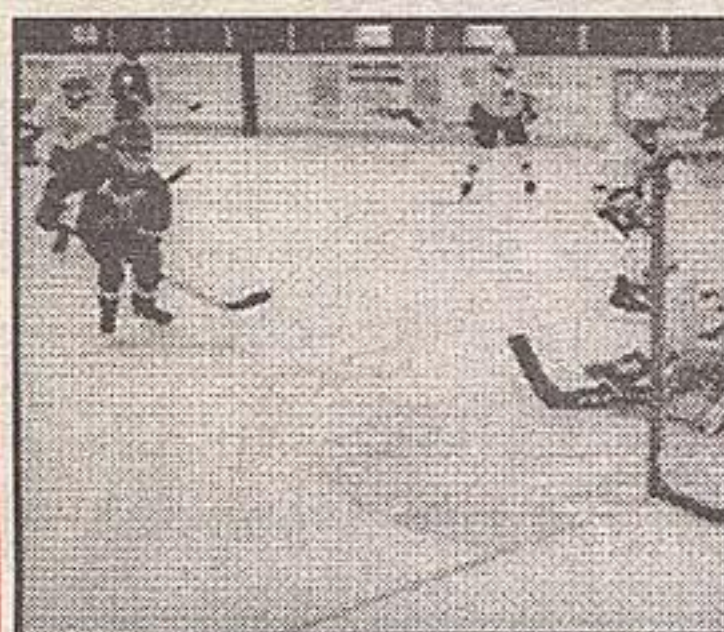
What's Inside



After 32 years as a custodian at Acton schools Irene Balogh has decided to retire. See the story on Page 3



Rockwood's only private school since William Wetherald had the old Rockwood Academy, the Wellington Hall Academy stresses academics. See the story on Page 8



The hockey season is in full swing at the new Acton arena. See Page 9 for scores and those who earned them.

Foodshare receives donations

Thanksgiving is a time to remember the less fortunate and some area citizens did that without any prompting this past weekend.

As a result Acton's Foodshare food bank is a couple of thousand pounds of food richer at a time when it was very much in need of that help.

Foodshare chair Arlene Humphreys says there was no official food drive here over Thanksgiving but a couple of churches, Acton High school and St. Joseph's school collected for the food bank anyway.

"We were very low on supplies and this was a great big help," Humphreys says, "but we hadn't done any appeal because our campaign is always held the first Saturday of November."

That morning the Scouts, Guides and Cadets will be collecting donations from door-to-door.

Eclectic artist hatches new project

Acton artist Wendy West doesn't know what part of her artistic life she likes best but she's determined to make the most of her versatility.

"I need it all," West said of her eclectic career as a recording artist and an award-winning songwriter. Her collection-quality paintings and portraits are hung in a smart Toronto art gallery and at the home of art buff and performer Gordon Lightfoot.

West, also known for her traditional landscapes and



EGG ART: Acton artist Wendy West (seated) has turned infertile ostrich eggs, produced at Debbie Simmonds's (left) White Rock Ostrich Farm, into works of art that are on sale at the farm's gift shop. -Frances Niblock

equine paintings, portraiture and bronze sculptures, has no favoured outlet for her creative talents.

"I work and exhaust myself on one thing and then I have to go to the other thing," West said in an interview on Saturday.

"When I do my writing I put everything into it and it's the same with my performing and painting. I need it all."

West recently took a break from writing a screenplay to try a new art form - painting

ostrich eggs. A Rockwood ostrich farmer's ad for artists to work with the infertile eggs caught her eye and now three of her creations, a still life and two scenes, are on sale at White Rock Ostrich Farm's gift shop.

"The two English country scenes are smaller reproductions of two canvases that I've painted. I'm working on an egg with an antique car painted on it and also want to do some sort of three dimensional sculpture - maybe a portrait - on an egg," West

said.

West is self taught and said her convent education in England stunted her creative talents which blossomed when she finished school.

"I never liked school because there was never enough on the arts. I always wanted to sing and paint, even before I knew if I could."

Another of West's recent projects is a collection of songs that she wrote and recorded for the War Amps of Canada to commemorate the

See Hatched on Page 2

Demolition report due

Town staff is now evaluating bids from 20 contractors who want to tear down the Prospect Park arena. The tenders were opened on Thursday at the Civic Centre and the bids range from a low of \$14,766 to a high of \$187,143.

Stone Port Construction of Richmond Hill submitted the highest bid and the low bid from Marrex of Caledon, contained a clerical error which will be corrected in staff's report at Monday's general committee meeting. The majority of the remaining bids are over \$100,000 with several between \$46,000 and \$100,000.

Tied to the tender report is the joint proposal from the Acton Agricultural Society and Heritage Acton to save the building. That group asked council for \$200,000 - including approximately \$130,000 in the Town's budget for demolition - to put towards restoration costs.

Agricultural Society Treasurer Daniel Varanelli said they have to wait and see if any tenders are accepted.

"We hope that they will accept our offer to take over the building and develop it as a community activity centre," Varanelli said last Thursday, stressing that the project hinges on the Town's financial help.

"If the Town says flat out no, the Fair Board will not come through... I personally as treasurer of the Fair Board would recommend that if the Town did not participate in this renovation to any significant extent then I would recommend that they (the Fair Board) should not put up See Demolition on Page 2



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