



Elephant in back yard

Cont. from Pg. 6

think it mattered to them if it was there another year," Seymour added.

According to Jim Peller, "I wanted to see it (Tantor) go back where it should be. It didn't sound like they wanted it." Peller said things were pretty quiet in regards to Tantor then it was almost unbelievable the calls they were getting and people wanting it. He said he had a gentleman call who only wanted the skull and a physiotherapist from Elora who wanted the entire elephant. The physiotherapist wanted to use it as a teaching aid with students on how joints work. The Pellers then began to wonder what they really had in their yard.

Jim Peller decided to do a little test of his own to see if these people knew what they were talking about. Peller went to a butcher and purchased the largest cow bone he could. He then buried the bone at the site. Then he started feeling guilty about the stunt. He had concerns about the ROM having a cow bone mixed with elephant bones. Fortunately for Peller, the physiotherapist from Elora came for a visit. Peller said he acted as if "he had found gold". The man was ecstatic, in bare feet, rooting around in the burial spot when he pulled out the bone and announced it was definitely did not come from an elephant.

This past spring, Peller contacted Susan Woodward his original contact at the ROM and asked them if they still wanted the remains.

Last August, almost nine years after the bones were buried, Tantor's remains were retrieved. A team of eight people dug the bones out of the manure boxes and checked to make sure each piece of the puzzle were still there. "We laid it out and once we took them out of the dirt it we assembled them on site," said Seymour. Remarkably, all the bones were found and not damaged except, "they were stained sort of brown because where they were," Seymour said. The

possibility of the bones being damaged was a concern as Tantor was not fully grown when he died, all his bones were not fused. Within the day, all the bones were retrieved and returned to the ROM.

Tantor now rests in storage at the ROM, "I don't believe we (ROM) have any intention of displaying (Tantor)," said Nicki Mitchell with the ROM's media relations. Although Tantor may not be seen by the public, he has already helped to identify fossil bones and is used as a teaching aid in cooperation with the University of Toronto.

As for the Jim and Ruth Ann Peller, with a set of twins, another child due this spring, a dog, 50 head of sheep and 30 lambs, would they do this again? "Probably," Jim Peller said.

Leathertown Junction update done

The Town is currently reviewing an updated retail market analysis of Acton that a local developer hopes will help convince planning staff and councillors to approve rezoning and Official Plan amendment applications for Leathertown Junction - a proposed 26,000-square-foot plaza on the south side of the Young and Queen Streets intersection, just east of the railway tracks.

Property co-owner Doug Fread wants approval to include an 8,000-square-foot general merchandise anchor store - not currently permitted - and to increase the mini-

mum permitted sizes for a pharmacy and specialty food store on the former Ajax site. Several years ago the Ontario Municipal Board gave approval for a supermarket and large department store in Acton east on lands south of Highway 7 and east of Churchill Road, but those development plans have stalled.

"The update shows there's room for both and we want to proceed because the developers of the proposed plaza with a food and department store in Acton east aren't ready, and we are," Fread said in a recent interview.

When asked for an update on timing for the public meeting on the proposal, Fread said they were "completely at the mercy" of the Town planning department that seemed very busy with major development issues in Georgetown south.

Fread said that the market update showed that the proposed Leathertown Junction wouldn't have an adverse impact on new or proposed retail businesses.

"There is no department store in town and there's no space for a department retail

store in Town so it's pretty logical, to me anyway, that there's a demand for it," Fread said.

Town planner Barb Koopmans said it was premature to comment on the updated market analysis because it's still being reviewed by staff. Once all of the commenting agencies have responded to the Leathertown Junction zoning and Official Plan amendments, the Town will hold a public meeting on the proposal and then staff will prepare a report for Council debate.

LEGION NEWS BRANCH No. 197

BY MIKE MANUEL
This Sunday, Jan. 31, will be the Super Bowl Party and this promises to be a great day of fun. We will be starting off with a euchre tournament, a BBQ and followed up with the famed kickoff at 6:30 p.m. Euchre registration has been rescheduled until 2 p.m. with the games starting at 3 p.m. sharp. Registration cost is \$5.

If the Valentine's Party is anywhere near the success the 50's/60's was, then I will guarantee a great time again. The annual PeeWee

Hockey Tournament Breakfast has been set for Sunday, Feb. 7. The kitchen opens at 8 a.m. and goes on until 11 a.m. The cost is only \$3. For anyone wishing to go to Rama on Feb. 27, buses
Cont. on Pg. 15

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