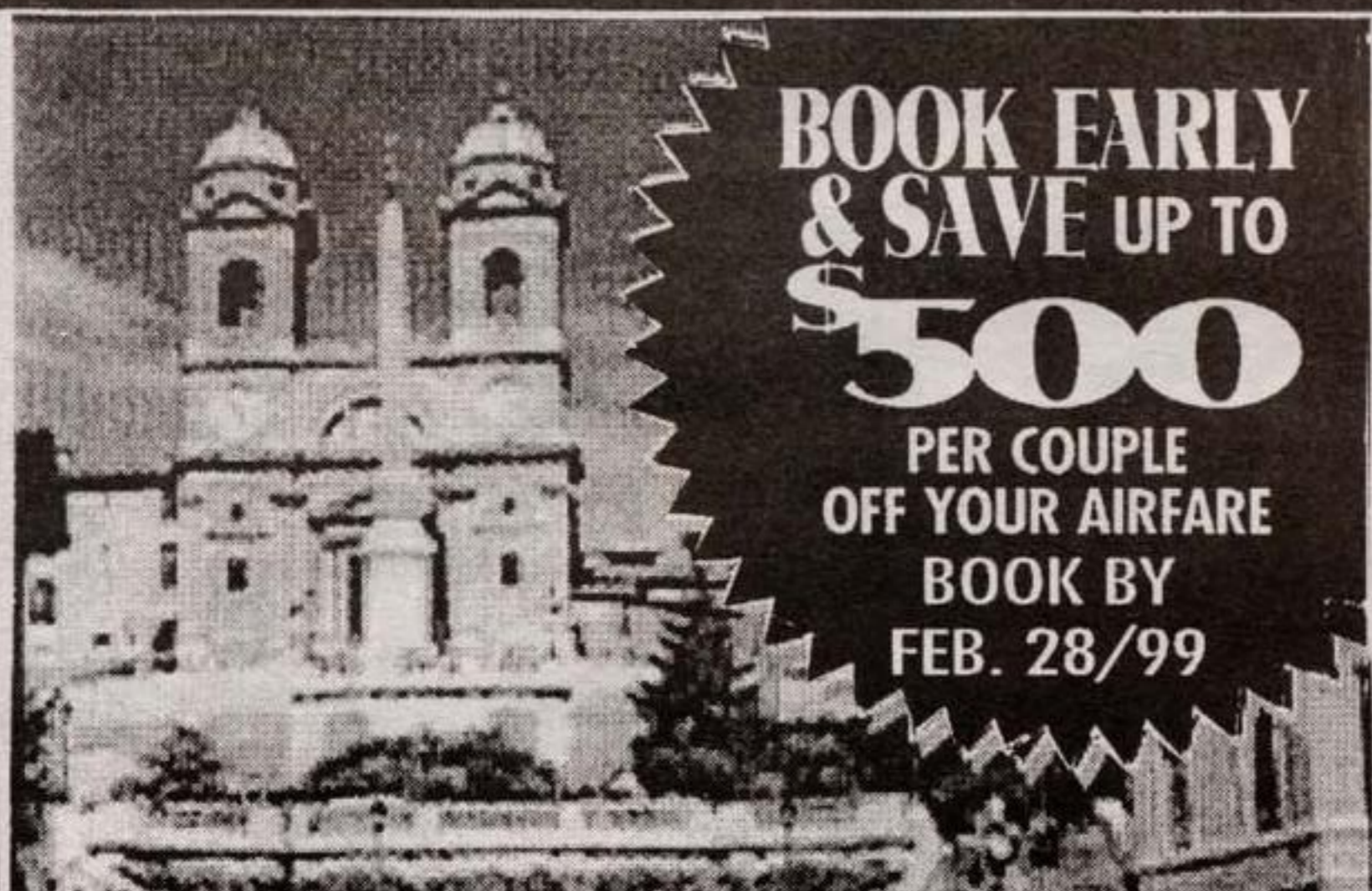


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Town is urged to butt out now!

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

A persistent message to butt out now was delivered to Town staff at a meeting last week as speaker after speaker pleaded for an even tougher smoking bylaw than the one currently being studied by the Town.

Town CEO Steve Andrews assured the speakers - including two teachers, two parents, and officials with the Canadian Cancer Society, Halton Health Unit and Canadian Federation of University Women - that he'd heard their message "quite loud and clear."

Andrews also said the Town's smoking bylaw could end up being more stringent than those in the rest of Halton are. "Maybe it's time for Halton Hills to take the lead," Andrews said, promising to bring back a staff report to council by the end of next month.

While the Region's smoking bylaw calls for a 100 per cent ban on smoking in public places by 2005, speakers at the public meeting urged the Town to go for a 100 per cent now, not later.

The proposed bylaw would reduce the square footage of a restaurant that could be designated for smokers to 30 per cent from the 75 per cent in the current Town bylaw, enacted in 1993. An existing exemption for restaurants with fewer than 30 seats has been deleted from the proposed bylaw.

While bars and taverns are currently exempt from the existing smoking bylaw, the proposed legislation requires at least half of the facility be smoke free. Bingo halls, billiard and pool halls and bowling alleys that weren't addressed in the Town's existing bylaw would also now be required to make half the facility smoke free.

The public has until tomorrow (Friday) to make written comments concerning the proposed smoking bylaw.



GOOD NEIGHBOUR: Michael Diaz, a third year apprentice mechanic at Achilles Mazda, got a really pleasant surprise recently when Glenn MacNeale returned his missing wallet. Diaz lost his wallet in the Beckers' plaza. A member of MacNeale's family saw the wallet drop and three youths pick it up. MacNeale knew the youths and called on them to return the missing items. One took the wallet back to Diaz while another brought the money to MacNeale who returned every last penny of it to the grateful owner. - Ted Tyler photo

Question lottery allotment

A long list of questions and concerns from Town councillors and a hockey club about the proposed sharing of \$156,568 in Provincial Lottery Corporation money prompted general committee members to defer dealing with the issue until after a special meeting tomorrow (Friday) between Town staff and interested councillors.

When Queen's Park killed plans for 44 permanent casinos across Ontario last year it set up an \$40 million Advanced Funding Program to help those organizations which would have benefited from the casinos.

Although invitation to apply letters were sent to all groups which had gaming-type licenses from the Town

in the past four years, and two newspaper ads were placed, only 38 groups asked for some of the money which will be administered this year by the Town. Next year the program will be administered by the Trillium Foundation.

Staff determined that all of those groups were eligible, having met the provincial criteria of being able to apply for a lottery licence.

Using both provincial and the Town's municipal assistance program guidelines, staff devised a rating system to decide who got how much.

Under the weighting system four groups, including the Acton Citizens' Band, are slated to receive the highest amount of \$11,846. The Georgetown Junior A Hockey

Club, the only group on the list to have actually held a fundraising Monte Carlo and therefore the only group to lose funds because of cancellation of the casinos, is unhappy with its \$4,017 allocation and appealed for more money at Monday night's general committee meeting.

While staff said groups getting money had to show that they benefitted Halton Hills, several councillors questioned why groups in Brampton and Milton were getting any of the money being administered by the Town. Councillors also wanted a list of all of the groups that were sent letters telling them about the money - a "gravy train" according to one councillor.

Louisiana-Pacific completes offer for ABT Building Products

Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (NYSE:LPX) announced Wednesday the successful completion of its tender offer for shares of ABT Building Products Corporation (ABTco). The tender offer, at \$15 per share for all outstanding ABTco shares, was made pursuant to a merger agreement between Louisiana-Pacific and ABTco. The offer expired at 12 midnight (EST) on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

First Chicago Trust Company of New York, the de-

pository for the tender offer, has advised Louisiana-Pacific that, based on a preliminary count, 10,529,815 shares of ABTco common stock (including 35,437 shares subject to guarantees of delivery), representing more than 98 per cent of all outstanding ABTco common shares, were purchased by Louisiana-Pacific pursuant to the offer.

Louisiana-Pacific, now in its 26th year, is a major building products company headquartered in Portland, Oregon, with manufacturing facilities throughout the U.S. and in Canada and Ireland. ABT's main plant in Canada is in Acton with a warehouse in Milton.

Bright lights ... big city?

Safety wins out over atmosphere when it comes to street lighting in rural estate subdivisions in Halton Hills - much to the chagrin of Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette who doesn't want the countryside to look like a city.

At Monday's general committee meeting Bonnette complained about the bright lights coming from a new subdivision north of Highway 7 between the Fifth and Sixth Lines and asked staff what could be done.

"It's called a rural estate and both Acton Councillor (Norm) Elliott and I noted driving from Acton to Georgetown this evening that you could see the lights on Bridlewood - the homes between the Fifth and Sixth Line and it looks like a city

out in the country and I don't think that giving a rural flavour in a rural area," Bonnette said.

Town engineer Bob Austin didn't give Bonnette much hope that the lights could be dimmed.

"I recall the Chair of the OMB stating that if the police think they need lighting for safety, then there was little room there for OMB comment," Austin said, adding that all rural estate developments in Halton Hills require street lighting.

While Bonnette said he could understand the safety argument, he pointed out that there aren't any lights on the Fifth or Sixth Lines from Highway 7 north to the new subdivision.

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