

# Exotic pet bylaw deferred until April

While a local exotic pet owner hailed the Town's proposed exotic pet bylaw as the best draft around, town councillors agree the legislation needs some fine-tuning. On Monday night, general committee members voted to defer approval of the bylaw until mid-April so changes can be made.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette first asked for leg-

islation six years ago when a man with a boa constrictor scared people on the midway at the Acton Fall Fair.

The escape of a performance tiger in Norval and a snake on Bower Street in Acton fueled the issue and resulted in the proposed bylaw that lists prohibited animals, mainly those not indigenous to Canada. It also regulates reptiles and insects not

prohibited and restricts typical farm animals to agricultural areas.

Steve Edgar, president of the Halton Exotic Pet Association (HEPA) praised the bylaw, but also asked councillors not to ban animals just because they "got lots of calls from ignorant, uneducated, phobic and prejudiced constituents."

"If a Rotweiler or pit bull

mauled a child, we would expect the dog to be destroyed and the owner investigated, we would not ban the whole breed," Edgar said, adding that the Town should reconsider its ban on all venomous insects because it includes bees which are necessary for pollination.

Edgar also said some tarantulas and scorpions should be allowed and res-

cued eagles, hawks falcons and owls and those used for education and species preservation should be allowed.

Edgar also asked for a grandfather clause to allow owners of banned pets to keep the pet until it dies, something staff said can be done by with what is called a sunset clause, allowing an exemption for either the life of the animal, or five years.

Ward 2 Councillor Kathy Gastle suggested that the section of the bylaw restricting farm animals to agricultural areas be tightened up to include all hamlets where there have been problems with people developing small farmyards.

Staff will be back with the bylaw changes on April 12.

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## What's Inside



MBS Mustangs just missed out on capturing the Halton crown. See story on Page 7.



Five Acton skaters did well at a competition in Sarnia. See page 3.



Famine for 30 hours at Acton Baptist Church used up a lot of fruit juice. See page 5



Fire struck Limehouse wrecking yard Sunday night. See page 6

# Town urged to buy locally

## Canada Post calls meeting on rural mail

Looks like Canada Post is finally getting serious about dealing with a growing list of complaints about poor mail service in rural Acton.

On Monday, Canada Post information officer Tom Creech was planning a meeting for this week to "get to the root of the problems."

"We've got some difficulties there, and we want to sit down with the master contractor and the individual doing the delivery and some Canada Post people and try to figure out what is really going on," Creech said.

Creech added that the master contractor had been working on a regular basis over the past month with the contractor on RR 1 and "that helped, somewhat."

In July, Haycore Distributing underbid several long-time rural Acton delivery contractors and by fall, complaints began to surface about poor delivery as letters, cheques, newspapers and flyers went astray.



**DISHING OUT:** Acton Rotary Club invited guests to a chicken supper at the arena Friday to acquaint residents with the organization and to celebrate the club's 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Rotarians Dot Gould and Bruce Ross helped diners fill their plates. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

## Dealership wants tender reviewed

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

Despite a warning from staff that the integrity of the Town's tendering process could be questioned, general committee members will give a local car dealer another shot at a tender for a pick up truck the Town plans to buy.

At general committee on Monday night staff recommended the low bid of \$30,535 from Hamilton Motor Products be accepted.

Instead, councillors deferred action until council on Monday after an appeal from Walt Dixon, president of Park Lincoln-Mercury, whose two bids for Ford trucks were \$2,400 and \$2,800 higher than Hamilton's bid.

Dixon urged councillors to spend Town money locally and pointed out that he recently saved the Town the difference between the bids when Park Lincoln replaced an out-of-warranty transmission in a truck it sold the Town.

"The price to repair the transmission was \$2,792. After my staff's caring efforts and some financial participation from myself, the cost to the Town was \$548," Dixon said.

"Yes, my truck tender is higher, but you already got \$2,244 of your money back," Dixon said, adding that he doubted that would happen with an out-of-town dealer.

Dixon also said the Town would be penny wise and pound foolish to award the bid to a company that doesn't put any money into the local community. He noted that

Park Lincoln, located on Highway 7 at the road to Limehouse, employs 35 local citizens, pumps \$2.5 million annually into the local economy and pays the equivalent cost of the truck in land and businesses taxes every year to the Town.

Town CEO Steve Anthony cautioned council against rejecting the low bid.

"I'm just concerned about undermining the fairness of the bidding process here in Halton Hills. Once you go down this road it's a slippery slope and the reputation gets out that the municipality might not be respectful of the efforts that go into the bidding process," Andrews said, while acknowledging that the \$2,500 bid difference "was not insignificant."

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette was not convinced.

"We might be going down a slippery slope but it was a slippery slope to begin with because all three of the tender specs were unclear," Bonnette said, noting that none of the bids met tender specifications.

Town engineer Bob Austin said had one of the trucks met all Ministry of Transportation specifications, even if it was more expensive, that's the one staff likely would have recommended.

## Next week's issue on Wednesday

Next week's issue of The New Tanner will be published on Wednesday, March 31 instead of Thursday, April 1.

Publish Ted Tyler said the move to one day ahead is to accommodate our advertisers be-

fore the Good Friday and Easter Sunday holidays. It will also ensure readers will receive their copies before the holiday.

In order to facilitate the earlier publication date, advertisers are asked to have advertis-

ing copy in by noon on Monday, March 29. News copy should be in The New Tanner offices by noon the same day.

Publication date will return to Thursdays the following week.

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