

Acton Trunk Sale land to fund leisure centre?

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Town-owned land where the popular Acton Trunk Sale is held could be sold to help make up the \$2.1 million cost over run for the Georgetown south leisure centre and twinning of Alcott arena, projects that will now cost \$12.1 million.

While staff suggested a new property disposal committee should get appraisals on five surplus properties, Council opted for a stream-

lined process to focus on land beside the Civic Centre, the "big fish" that will bring the most money, according to Councillor Rick Bonnette.

"Staff will deal first with the properties where they think that can get the best bang for the buck," Bonnette said following Monday's meeting.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott, frustrated with procedural wrangling over motions and amendments, and the suggested committee, said the Town has "more freaking committees" now than it's had in 15 years, and it's time for

general committee to make some decisions.

At the instance of the Acton councillors, any potential profit from the Halton Hills Hydro restructuring will not be considered as an option to help make up the \$2.1 million shortfall.

Before it could be sold Town-owned land must be declared and the public must be given a chance to comment on its disposition. Council could sell the property by auction, by bid or on the open market. Staff said if all five properties were sold it should generate the

needed \$2.1 million but the deals must close by September 2001, to provide the necessary cash flow.

Other sources of revenue could include dipping into last year's operating budget surplus or issuing debt. The suggested surplus properties identified by staff are on John Street, Delrex Boulevard at Fagan Drive, a commercial utility site at Boston Church, land to the east of the Civic Centre and the Acton land at the Mill Street rail crossing, adjacent to the olde Hide House parking lot.

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What's Inside



Maggie Petrushevsky reviews Acton High School's production of Guys 'n Dolls on Page 6



Canadian Blood Services has some happy helpers for the blood clinic in Acton last week. See Page 8 for their names.



Trillium grants were handed out last week to Halton Hills organizations including Halton Hills Community Services and Information. See Page 8 for story.

Salute first community champion

POLICE BEAT

Assault charges

A 28-year-old tenant at 26 Willow St., North is charged assault causing bodily harm and break and enter after he beat another tenant. Police were called at 7:30 Friday night when two men got into a verbal altercation on a common deck. Police said when the victim went into his apartment to avoid further confrontation, the accused forced his way in and beat him. Police didn't know the extent of his injuries or what started the fight. The accused was held for a bail hearing.

Pot bust

A 15-year-old Mill Street West resident was arrested and charged with possession of a narcotic after a patrolling officer noticed him behind St. Joseph's School at 11:45 on Friday night. Police said a baggie of marijuana - no word how much - was found on the youth who appears in court on May 19.

Window smashed

The owners of a Frederick
Continued on Page 7



COMMUNITY CHAMPION: Acton's first Community Champion, Gail Thompson (centre) was a hands-down favourite as the recipient of the inaugural award, designed to honour people who make Acton a nicer place to live. Pastor Jamie Shepherd and Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson presented Thompson, whose good cheer brightens everyone she meets, with a pin and certificate on Monday. - Frances Niblock photo

Tim Hortons employee lifts spirits

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Gail Thompson's unflinching good humour generated a slew of nominations as the Acton Concerns Committee's first recipient for its new Community Champion award, given to people who make our community a nicer place to live.

Gail, an Acton Tim Hortons employee, is known and loved far and wide for her ability to lift the spirits of all she meets with a "Hi, honey." Gail is also known for her rapidly expanding collection of pins - most of them gifts from customers.

What's Gail's secret? How can she be so upbeat, happy, positive, interested and enthusiastic?

"I told a customer once who asked how I was always so happy that if I had a problem, it's behind my back and I'm not going to turn around," Gail said after learning she was Acton's first Community Champion.

Gail, a single mom to two teens, has lived in Acton for 11 years and has been employed by Tim Hortons since it opened almost seven years ago. (Several customers have tried to lure her away with job offers, but she won't leave "her" customers.)

Pastor Shepherd, who said there was a "committee of people" who wanted to nominate Gail, knows there

Phonebusters working to stop scams

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

In the past five years Ontario residents have handed over more than \$47 million to unscrupulous telemarketers for telephone and mail scams.

Gus Laforge of the OPP's Phonebusters, says these types of fraud are conducted by "professional con artists". Often they are young, heavily involved in a fast life style and work out of a "boiler room" with several other telemarketers.

Most of these operators call from

Montreal. Their pitch varies. The caller represents what sounds like a charity and requests a donation, or says you have just won a major prize, or been selected as a finalist in a draw, or something like this. Only to collect your winnings you need to send money for taxes, handling fees or some incidental expense in order to collect your winnings.

The common theme is the need for you to send them money and the urgency of getting that money to them. Right now, Laforge says, money orders and cheques sent to Montreal callers have to be sent to Israel to be cashed

because Canadian banks are aware of the schemes and refuse to cash these cheques.

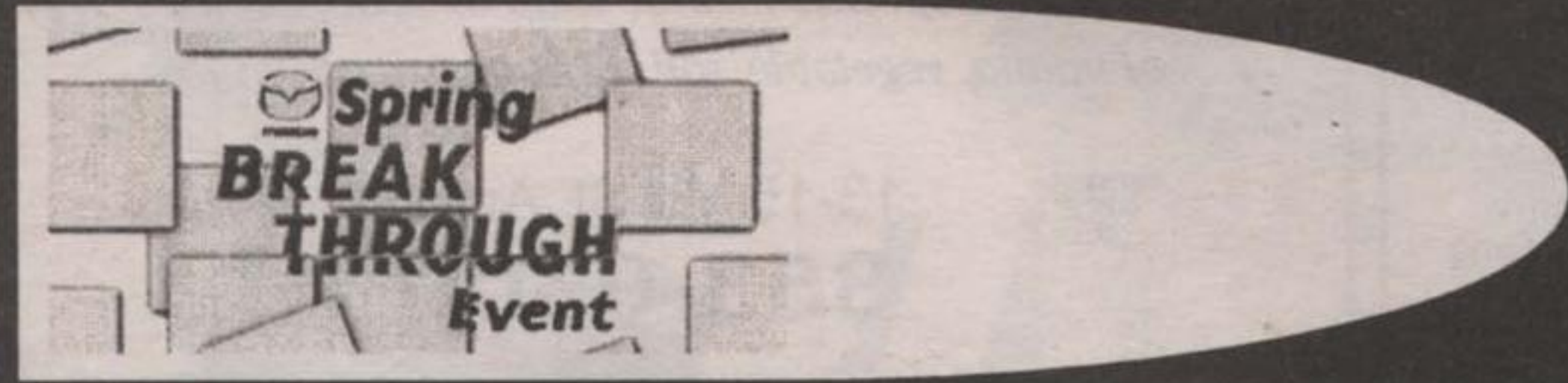
"They don't want you to have time to consider their request or check up on the legitimacy of the cause or the organization behind it," Laforge says. "You need to remember if you win it, it's free. There's no reason for you to pay for anything."

Phonebusters is working with local branches of the Women's Institute to reach the public with their program. Last week the Wellington and South Halton

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