

Seniors turn out to vet developer's plans

BY MAGGIE
PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

A large group of seniors turned out to discuss preferences for inclusion in homes to be built in a proposed seniors' community in north

Acton. Developer Fred Dawkins, builder Peter Zions and planner Bruce Donaldson explained the community is designed for 50- to 80-year-olds who are still active but wish to live in a smaller home.

There will only be one

public access to the site from Wallace Street, but a second emergency access to that street will be provided, and bike and walking trails will go from the site to a neighbouring park to the south-east of the development. The greenspace around the site is

dedicated to wetland and won't be changed, Donaldson said.

The development is expected to contain link houses or freehold street townhouses in the first phase, cluster condominium bungalows with or without a loft in phase two, and a four-storey, 64-unit condominium apartment in phase three.

Although water is not a problem, sewage capacity is, Dawkins said. Until Halton Region expands the town's existing sewage treatment plant, possibly next year but maybe not until 2002, construction must wait.

Zions assured the group the intent of the development is to provide for the need of Acton and area residents and urged people to keep in touch with them to ensure they get first chance when units go on sale. While the lower price could attract out-of-town residents he won't market the development outside Acton unless it is necessary to finish selling the units.

Dawkins said while the intent is to have a seniors' development, there's no legal way to put age restrictions on

occupants. Doing small units where space is limited tends to weed out families but the lower price could attract younger buyers.

Residents told the developers they want two-bedroom, open concept units around the 1,000 square foot size and no stairs. Laundry areas should be on the main floor, not the basement. They see a need for garages with storage space rather than for finishing, and want level or elder-friendly entries where steps are shallow and wide. All doorways should be at least 36 inches wide to accommodate wheelchairs and case-ment windows are preferred

for those with dexterity problems. Lever door handles, single lever faucets, easy-opening cupboard doors with handles and power receptacles and switches at waist height are all important to seniors with arthritis or other mobility difficulties. Roll curbs rather than the traditional boxy type are also better for seniors with mobility problems.

Dawkins said residents could purchase and rent out a unit if they aren't ready to move into it immediately. The apartments may also be rental units rather than individually owned.

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1 Peter 1:3 (Good News Bible)

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CONSTABLE RIDDLE'S CORNER

With Village Constable
Bill Riddle



by Karen Coleman

Dangers in the home

In light of the recent tragedy last Friday, when three young children died while playing an innocent game of hide and seek, this week's column is aimed at providing some advice to parents with babies, tots and young children.

Look around your home for any containers large enough to fit a child. Check that they are either locked or have the hinges taken off. Store them in a locked room or, preferably, in the attic.

If you have an old fridge, freezer, dishwasher or other household appliance, with which you have finished, do not leave it in your garage or basement. Have it taken away to be disposed of properly.

There are around 250 toxic substances within a normal home. The best way to ensure that these do not harm your children is to make sure that all substances are kept in their original containers, and that they are stored in locked cupboards, well out of reach of children.

Keep all hazardous items, such as pans, irons, knives, and heavy or sharp ornaments, out of children's reach.

Do not leave water unattended in the bath, or other similar container. A child could easily climb in and drown.

Fit lever door handles upside down to prevent children wandering into the garage, workshop or outside, while your back is turned.

A number of items can be purchased from the stores specifically designed to make your home safer for children. These include child proof locks for cupboards, closets, fridges, freezers, and toilets, electric socket guards, stove and fire guards, and stair gates.

However, do not be complacent. As your child gets older he/she is able to reach things higher up and door handles, kitchen counters and windowsills suddenly become within reach.

Periodically, go down to your child's level to see what he/she sees, and move anything within your reach to a higher level. If you can reach it - they can reach it!

Start at an early age to tell your child not to touch hazardous and dangerous items, and periodically remind them of this.

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ACTON SENIORS' RECREATION CENTRE

By Dot Redekop

We had a good turnout for the housing meeting on May 1. A lot of questions were asked and a lot answered. It is so good to see so many interested folks. If we stick together maybe we will be heard.

Don't forget our trip to St. Jacobs on Thursday, May 18. Coach leaves at 8:45 from the Centre. Maybe you could pick up a few goodies at the Market.

On Friday, May 26 from 8

Police wonder about chop shop

Halton police wonder if there's a chop shop operating in this area after a new crime analyst spotted a trend in thefts of older cars.

The latest is a 1987 Buick Regal, black two-door, valued at \$10,000, stolen from the owner's driveway on Highway 7 near Silvercreek, between 10:30 Sunday night and early Monday morning. Police said the car, which was in excellent condition, was locked and no keys were available.

to 11 p.m. we are having our Gala Evening. Come out and listen or dance to Corey's One Man Band or join us in games such as euchre, bid euchre, shuffleboard, crokinole or board games. The tickets are \$5 each and include prizes and refreshments. Dancing from 8 to 11 p.m. Games from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Anyone out there interested in learning to play bridge or canasta? If so, phone the Centre at 853-5951.

POLICE BEAT

Police said the rash of thefts of older vehicles in the past month is an "unusual shift" that is being investigated.

Wallet taken

Halton police are repeating their warning about not leaving valuables in unlocked vehicles after a wallet was stolen from a car owned by a Main Street North woman.

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