

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Rezoning meeting has special significance

New Tanner readers seem surprised by last week's front page story noting that other sites in Ontario and the U.S. are being looked at as possible places for a 500-job auto parts plant, as well as the Acton site.

Magna International filed an application before Christmas to rezone about 70 acres on Main St. N. in Acton for a proposed parts plant. The application has created a lot of excitement in Acton and area, which has had more than its share of plant closings and shifts over the last two decades. But it should be no surprise that a large company like Magna International is bidding for the best deal they can get for a new plant.

The company's director of industrial relations says the new plant will produce truck frames for Daimler-Chrysler and proximity to railway lines is one of the more substantial factors Magna considers when choosing a site for a plant. The Acton location certainly qualifies as a prime contender with rail lines adjacent. One former railway man told The New Tanner a siding could be constructed at minimal cost to better service an Acton plant.

However, since Magna's executive vice-president of finance says the company needs a plant up and running by the year 2003 the public meeting to hear the rezoning application at the Halton Hills civic centre on January 15 assures special significance. Although it seems that the application is being expedited with far more speed than others, the time frame and the magnitude of the project certainly deserve special consideration. The future of Acton and area will be hanging on the results of the hearing.

Those high banks

There's been so much snow in this neck of the woods this winter that people are running out of places to put it. Some have resorted to throwing it out on the roads which, if they weren't aware, is an offence and liable for a fine.

It is especially dangerous when snow is thrown on the highway. It has been known to cause accidents and those responsible have got into serious trouble for their actions, often very costly trouble.

The amount of white stuff has also resulted in high snowbanks that restrict the view of motorists around town and in the villages. Drivers have to exercise caution when leaving their own driveway and at intersections where the view is obstructed by the high banks.

Pedestrians should also exercise special care at intersections and when walking past driveways where snowbanks obstruct the view.

The weatherman is forecasting more snow this week, which will add more height to already high banks. It is incumbent on residents to level the banks to our property to ensure our own safety as well as others. The Town can only do so much pushing banks back and levelling at intersections. The rest is up to us.



FLOWING FREE: The Black Creek meanders through a soft blanket of snow on its journey through Dolly Varden at the Third Line crossing.

How to keep warm in Florida

By Angela Tyler

Just after Christmas I, and the rest of my workaholic family, decided we needed a break. Off we headed to the land of oranges, Mickey Mouse and warm temperatures.

It's a long-standing tradition that my family usually vacations once or twice a year together. My grandparents started this years ago and it's just something we do. Although we see each other all the time, we really don't have a lot of time together. Keep in mind it's not something every family can do. It can be quite the challenge. To be an adult having your own home, your own vehicle and doing your own thing to becoming a unit that does almost everything together for seven days straight can be interesting. However, it can also have its rewards.

Unfortunately, the land of sun, sand and warmth was a little chilly. When we arrived the sky was grey, the Gulf of Mexico was really choppy and temperatures were running around 40 - 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Needless to say, none of us came home with any tan lines.

My first comment to my entire family just after we loaded up the rental car upon arriving at Tampa airport was "Look at the trunk. Please remember this when we go shopping." The trunk was a pretty good size, but with four suitcases and three carry-ons when we arrived, there wasn't a lot of extra space left. Apparently none of us remembered my words of wisdom, especially me.

Once we finally caught up with our sleep, we did the thing that we do best... shop. With the weather so rotten and since we have done most of the 'tourist' things in the past, it left us quality time to enjoy the many retail opportunities in the area.

Each day we headed out with no intentions of needing anything in particular. We were just going out to take a look around and visit some favourite haunts. By the time we came back each night, we seemed to have another trunk load of goodies. One night we were even contemplating whether or not we needed the luggage trolley from the condo to haul the stuff up to the second floor. If we needed the luggage trolley to get one day's purchases upstairs, what would happen by the time we were to go home?

The United States of America...the land of opportunity. What they didn't tell you was they meant the land of shopping opportunities. It's just too tempting. There is our favourite mall, Tyrone Square. It has a Sears, JC Penny, Dillard's, Burdines plus 60 or so other stores. Then across the street, Montgomery Ward just announced they were closing all their stores and wouldn't you know it, they were also clearing out their inventory.

Just up the street is the 24-hour Walmart. Although I tried, I could not find any \$1 Christmas lights this year. I did, however, find a sweater I liked.

Across the road is a Payless Shoe store and on the other corner is my personal favourite, a gigantic Target store. If that wasn't enough, down the road is Seminole Mall with a pretty big K-Mart and a few other stores.

If you head in the other direction there is the Wagon Wheel Flea Market with over 1600 vendors. If we had any Trunk Sale withdrawals, the Mustang Flea Market, open Wednesday through Saturday mornings, was able to get us over that hump. I even ended up purchasing a dingy old water pitcher from some guy that reminded me of Nick from the Trunk Sale. I even beat him down from \$2 to a mere \$1 for my treasure.

After seven days of shopping, the true challenge was no longer finding a good deal, it was how we were going to get all the stuff into the rental car. We were late arriving at the airport, but we did it. We ended up with six suitcases, three carry-ons, two JC Penny bags crammed full and two incredibly large boxes which my sister and I had perched on our laps. Our great purchases included 60 10-cent grapefruits, 15 pounds of oranges (10 pounds of which were free with our grapefruit buy), four pounds of kettle popcorn, a massage chair pad with 10 relaxing settings, some clothes and a fly swatter.

On our trip to the airport, my mom said to us, "I think next time we need to rent a van." It sounded like a good idea, but in the end I think it would be easier if we find a different pastime.



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