

# Interest in Acton East lands percolating

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**  
The New Tanner

Stung by the unrequited affair with Magna, Town officials and a local councillor have dialed back the buzz about potential developments in Acton, but concede there's been some recent interest, particularly for commercial property in Acton East.

Asked who is looking at commercial land, other than in the new plaza, Allan O'Neill, the Town's economic development officer, wouldn't name names, but added, "My guess is that there are things happening and people are playing it very close to their chest at the moment - I've heard a couple of rumours," he said, adding he sees good retail future for Acton, beginning with the downtown.

"Virtually all of the stores on Mill Street are filled. There's a pretty good chance the old IGA store will be occupied, not with a food store but with reasonable quality retail," he said recently.

O'Neill said the Town gets inquiries from time to time about the former proposed Magna site on Highway 25 north of town, and "some of them are really serious and some are just

passing, but at the moment, there's no real solid opportunities that we're perusing."


Asked about the rumours of interest in Acton East, Acton and Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette said after the anxious situation waiting months to learn Acton wouldn't get the Magna car parts plant, he "can't say" anything about development rumours or expressions of interest that aren't more clear.

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## 'Y' cancels pre-school program



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** On Wednesday, Tyler Transport Ltd. received an early birthday present with the delivery of their new Freightliner school bus. Pat Robinson, driving instructor and senior driver accepted the keys from Wayne Smith of Macnab Bus Sales. Celebrating the company's 73rd anniversary (which is on Friday) is family members Ted and Dolores Tyler, daughters Tracey and Angela along with many of the company's employees.

Operating here for 22 years

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Acton single mom Pat Pacheo is on a "panicky quest" to convince the YMCA of Greater Toronto not to cancel its pre-school child care program in Acton as of July 15.

In a May 16 letter to parents, Acton Junior Y Daycare director Margaret Hynds announced with "great sadness" the impending closure of the centre that has operated in rented rooms upstairs at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School for 22 years.

The Y centre will still provide before and after school care for children six- to-10-years old, but not for Junior or Senior Kindergarten students. The Y day care is currently open 7:15 a.m. until 6:15 p.m., and accepts a limited number of toddlers, but the majority of the 22 part and full-time pre-school room kids are two-and-a-half to five-year-olds.

Pacheo, whose two teenaged sons and now two pre-schoolers have flourished at the Y, wants the YMCA of Greater Toronto to show her that it has looked for a cheaper alternate site in Acton.

One of her sons receives special treatments that must take place in registered, licenced daycare centre, not a licenced private home, and when the Acton Y closes, she'll be forced to drive to a

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## Acton a sellers' house market

It's a sellers' market in Acton and at least one local real estate agent wonders why more people aren't getting into the market while the getting is good.

On Friday, Re/Max Blue Springs Realty had 12 resale properties listed - half of what would be considered a healthy market according to sales representative John Bartlett.

"We need more resale homes in this town, desperately," Bartlett said on Friday, adding his associate had two bids on a Kingham Road townhouse last week and sold it in less than two hours for \$124,000, \$100 more than the asking price.

"It's just amazing - that was a situation where the people are moving to Acton East and they decided to jump into the active market and it paid off royally for them," he said, adding people nervous about a closing date on their new home can protect themselves in their agreement of purchase and sale.

In Acton East at the Devon Place development on the south side of Highway 7, east of the new plaza, the Acton East Development Corporation will build 420 houses (27 of them townhouses) with construction slated to begin within weeks.

Charleston Homes has sold 34 lots so far, with many more on hold as buyers sell their existing

houses. Finoro Homes associate broker Steve Tancoo said they've sold 60 of the 88 lots in phase one, directly behind the new plaza, and the buyers are mainly from Brampton and Mississauga with some from Acton.

Potential new home buyers Dian and Gary Gray of Brampton checked out Acton on Saturday and were impressed with Parkside Meadows, also being built by Charleston Homes on property at Wallace Street and Commerce Crescent. Finoro has sold 15 of the proposed 75 units on that site.

"We just like Acton's small town feel," said

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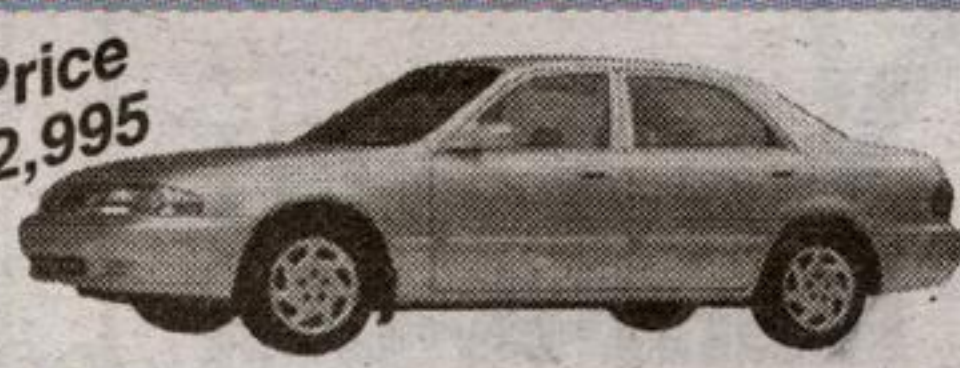
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