

Approve 27-hole gold course on farm land east of Acton

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Plans for the Black Creek golf course, a 27-hole public facility proposed for farmland east of Acton, were approved without opposition by Town Council on Monday night.

Although some neighbours initially opposed the application, raising concerns about possible impacts on their wells, on local roads and on the agricultural character of their area, none of the dozen residents in the council chambers on Monday night spoke against the proposal.

The facility, to be built on a 225-acre property between the Third and Fourth Lines, north of Highway 7, was praised by politicians for the economic benefits it will bring to the town – including 100 jobs – and for the extensive studies and tests done in support of the proposal.

Approval of the so-called Monckton application rezones the land from rural to special recreational, with 65 acres of environmentally protected land, to allow the golf course, clubhouse and maintenance building.

In his overview of the proposal, Monckton planning consultant Glen Schnarr said

in response to initial concerns from residents about the potential impact of the development on the quality and quantity of their well water, that irrigation for the facility would come from storing surplus surface water in ponds until it was needed.

Schnarr said he takes “personal and professional pride” in the application that included the most comprehensive development process of any of the 35 golf courses applications he worked on in the GTA.

Acton Councillor Clark Somerville noted that the applicant had held additional meetings with residents to

answer their concerns and pointed to the real economic benefits the project will bring to the town.

He guessed the project will cost between \$8 and \$15-million dollars to build and will result in significant new employment.

Citing the extensive process of studies and reports concerning the application, Georgetown Councillor Moya said the project would be positive for the applicant and ultimate users, would create jobs and includes a “judicious approach” to the use of water.

Mayor Kathy Gastle said the golf course would be a

great asset to the town and Councillor Rick Bonnette said the project would generate spin-off jobs in related industries.

Council’s approval of the plan is expected to prompt the applicant to withdraw an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board for a hearing, filed when the Town didn’t deal with the application within the 90 days prescribed by law.

A planning hold remains on the rezoned land until the applicant satisfies the Town that it has an approved site plan and proof of a commercial assess permit to the property from Highway 7 from the Ministry of Transportation.

On Tuesday, area resident Dan Poirier who opposed the application since it was filed in 1999, said he “gave up” the fight because he was convinced the project would be approved, despite their concerns.

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CATCH OF THE DAY: Matthew and Paul Kutasienski while away a hot August Day catching minnows in the school creek new the Acton branch of the Halton Hills Library. -Rhonda Peregrine photo.

BRANCH N 197 **LEGION NEWS**
By Alison Willmott
Public Relations Officer

This past weekend was great. On Saturday, around lunch-time, about 300 bikers made a pit stop at the branch. They were called the “Radical Bikers”. They came from Burlington and they ride to “Beat Breast Cancer.” I hear that they are planning to return next year.

On Sunday the Legion had a booth at the Leathertown Festival and all the help from volunteers was really appreciated. This coming Friday there is supposed to be a Fish Fry. Please call the Branch at 853-0910 for exact details.

Moe and the Boys are playing on August 24 and don’t forget the Fall Fair Breakfast on Sunday, September 16, the time to be announced at a later date.

Dobbie is looking for men crib players to join the Men’s Industrial Crib League. They play Thursday evenings. If you are interested call Dobbie or the Legion.

Bye for now and see you all later at the branch.

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