

# Police suspect arson in truck fire

Youths seen running from the scene are suspected of setting fire to a dump truck parked on the former Beardmore tannery property at the foot of Elgin Street just after 11 p.m. last Thursday.

When Acton firefighters and police arrived, they found the cab of the truck, belonging to Drexler Construction of Rockwood, was fully involved. Damage is pegged at \$20,000.

The truck and three other pieces of machinery were inside a gated and locked compound.

### Suspicious person

Police suspect a scruffy, white male was "casing" a Mill Street west home at 11 a.m. on Sunday morning. The homeowner told police he noticed an older model black Sunfire parked in front of his home before there was a knock at the door.

The suspect appeared surprised that someone was home and told the man he was looking for his boss before leaving.

The suspect has fair skin and dark brown hair with a slim build and was unshaven.

## POLICE DIGEST

He's six-foot tall and weighs 170-pounds and was wearing a baseball cap and blue T-shirt and was shoeless.

### Four flats

A Young Offender has been charged with mischief after a Mill Street resident saw him puncture all four tires on her car at 3:30 last Tuesday afternoon. A 15-year-old Acton teen was arrested at the scene. Damage is estimated at \$200.

### No permit

When Acton firefighters responded to a complaint about smoke at 8:21 p.m. on Sunday, they found a Hill Street resident had a small fire burning in a metal container. The homeowner didn't have a burn permit and was advised to extinguish the fire and call the fire department to apply for a permit.

### Gas leak

At 2:34 on Sunday afternoon, Acton firefighters responded to a call about gasoline leaking from a Dodge Shadow parked on McDonald Boulevard. They determined the fuel tank was leaking and assisted the owner by placing absorbent

material under the car to soak up the gasoline.

### Permit, please

On Saturday at 8:27 p.m., Acton firefighters responded to a complaint about open burning on Park Avenue.

A small fire was extinguished and the homeowner was advised that a burn permit is required before any open burning can occur.

### Fire set

Unknown suspects started a small fire against a tree behind Robert Little School at 6:06 a.m. on Friday. Acton firefighters doused the fire, which didn't cause

any damage.

### Alarm help

Acton firefighters helped an elderly Young street homeowner with a malfunctioning smoke alarm at 3:06 last Thursday afternoon. The smoke alarm was located in an area that the homeowner couldn't reach safely.

### Bell alarm

A faulty heat detector set off an alarm at the Bell Canada building on the corner of Church and Elgin Street last Tuesday at 6:36 a.m. The alarm couldn't be reset and Bell was advised to correct the problem as soon as possible.



**T-BONE CRASH:** The corner of Highway 7 and Regional Rd. 25 (Formerly Hwy 25) has heavy traffic loads with no signals and railway tracks adding to the confusion. Early Monday, these two vehicles were involved in a collision, the white car going south on 25 while the van was on Hwy 7.- Ted Tyler photo

## Less coal, cleaner air- Council

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

How much coal-fired electricity does Halton Hills Hydro buy and what impact would phasing out the use of pollution have on local customers?

Halton Hills Council wants those questions answered before dealing with a request from the Ontario Clean Air Alliance to buy electricity produced from natural gas and renewable energy, not coal.

Noting the GTA had already had 21 smog alerts so far this summer, Alliance chair Jack Gibbons recently urged Council to do its part to phase out reliance on the five coal-fired plants run by Ontario Power Generation that he says are major contributors to the public health crisis by air pollution.

"According to the Ontario Medical Association, air pollution will kill 1,900 people a year in Ontario - with 56 of those deaths forecasted for Halton this

year," Gibbons said, giving Council a list of 13 companies willing to sell Halton Hills coal-free electricity.

Gibbons said the only way to find out if there would be a cost savings to phasing out coal-fired electricity is to ask staff to contact the companies for quotes. He said 15 Ontario municipalities (including Burlington and Guelph) have asked their staffs to investigate the benefits and costs of phasing out their coal-fired electricity purchases and St. Catharines asked for proposals for coal-free electricity.

Mayor Kathy Gastle said she applauded the Alliance's efforts, adding the Town attended and signed a clean air declaration at a smog summit in Toronto last month and is interested in initiatives to "clear the

air we breathe."

Council didn't support Alliance suggestions to endorse phasing out the purchase of coal-fire electricity with specific dates and ask staff for a cost-benefit report, but accepted Georgetown councillor Moya Johnson's recommendation to ask Halton Hills Hydro for a report.

"It's not that I don't agree with the principle of it, but we need a lot more information," Johnson said, before making any decision.

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THE NEW TANNER

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