

Trespass charges at Tim's

If they didn't like the coffee so much, a group of disgruntled 20-something Acton residents would boycott Tim Hortons over what they claim is unfair treatment by police.

They claim police, at the request of Tim Hortons franchisee John Malinosky, are selectively enforcing the Trespass to Property Act against them, while ignoring other regulars who also spend a lot of time at Hortons.

Malinosky said he's politely and repeatedly asked the group to leave after they've had their coffee. A sign says Hortons welcomes them, but asks that visits be kept to 20 minutes.

"I'm losing business because I have elderly customers and families who won't come into my store because they don't know if the people hanging around are good or bad kids," Malinosky said on Sunday, adding he's not saying the kids are bad, but is tired of cleaning up bags of garbage, including competitor's food wrappers and dirty diapers, left by loiterers.

Oppose development

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"Another thing is the aesthetics to the rest of the houses in that area. If these are going to be 40-foot lots with two-storey houses on them, I have an acre property with a 3,500-square foot house, and the neighbours up the road have large lots. Aesthetically, I don't like it, obviously," Masters said.

Describing Masters' large lot in the urban area as "unusual" Wellings said it would be "impossible" to integrate it with the proposed plan of subdivision.

Frustrated at the group's refusal to stop hanging around his property for several hours a night, three or four nights a week, Malinosky decided it was time to "step it up a notch," telling staff to call police to deal with loiterers and giving police the authority to lay charges on his private property when they see people hanging around.

On Saturday, two 25-year-old Acton men, one of them who was warned by police about loitering earlier in the summer, were charged with trespassing as they sat in their vehicles in the Hortons parking lot, drinking Hortons coffee - while waiting for a friend.

"One cop was alright, but the other was arrogant and wouldn't listen, even when the girl we were waiting for showed up to confirm our story," one man, who didn't want his name used said, adding police wouldn't target people going for a cup of coffee.

"It's easy to get 20 to 25 people up there and they don't just stand around - they're always buying a drink or getting a donut or a bagel - it would be really nice to see somebody with the initiative to start a coffee shop where people could go and hang out - I bet it would be a very profitable venture."

Halton Inspector Ron Welsh said there is no selective enforcement, but, "if they (business owners) want us to enforce the Trespass to Property Act, then we're obliged to do that," Welsh said on Monday, adding Georgetown Tim Hortons locations are having similar loitering issues.

Detective Sergeant Don Cousens said they actively police the area at all times to "move the kids along."

The group also congregates in the neighbouring Glenlea plaza and Herb Dodds, co-owner of Royal Jug City, said they're "trying to make the best of a bad situation."

"We have insisted on abso-

lutely no litter and I can appreciate what John (Malinosky) is doing because we do realize that it does cut into our business, that there are people who won't come into our parking lot because of these people who are hanging around."

Acton resident Sarah Brophy, 18, who regularly hangs out in the area, spending approximately \$6 per night at Tim Hortons, questioned why the police are "so rude" to younger people. She suggested catching criminals, not coffee drinkers, would be a better use of police time.

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The Council of The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills invites applications from members of the public who are interested in serving on the Town's Accessibility Advisory Committee. Council is seeking volunteers from across the municipality to serve on the committee. Persons with disabilities and members of families of persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. The majority of the members of the Committee must be people with disabilities.

The main purposes and activities of the Accessibility Advisory Committee are:

- To advise Council on the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its annual accessibility plan.
- to advise Council on other accessibility related issues within the Municipality.

Applicant Eligibility:

- Must be a resident of the Town of Halton Hills.
- Over the age of 18 years.
- Not employed by the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills.

Submission of Application:
Application forms are available at the Town of Halton Hills, Clerks Department. Applicants who are short-listed will be requested to attend an interview conducted by the Corporate Affairs Committee. Members of the public interested in serving on the Accessibility Advisory Committee must submit their application no later than Friday, October 18, 2002 to:

Kelly Withers, Legislative Assistant
1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2
(905)873-2601 ext. 2330

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