

SWEET SOUNDS: The Acton Citizens' Band entertained an appreciative crowd at the Acton Legion before the Canada Day fireworks. - Frances Niblock photo

Freeze assessment...

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from MPAC, and that action was supported by council.

Treasure Ed DeSousa

said he would have to find out if the Town's Assessment system includes the age of the people owning houses, and how long they may have lived there.

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Mac and Joyce Sprowl

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Town warns of illegal taxis

By FRANCES NIBLOCK The New Tanner

Concerns that illegal unlicenced taxicabs are operating in Acton prompted Town bylaw enforcement staff to ask police and the public for help.

Following the Town's recent refusal to re-issue broker and taxi licences to Acton's North Halton Taxi, there have been eight or nine complaints to the Town about unlicenced cars being used to taxi people around in Acton.

Town bylaw enforcement officer Marina Booton said there is an on-going investigation, including frequent inspections, into possibly illegal cabs operating in Acton, because they "believe" there is some truth" in the various complaints.

"That's the hard part...we need to see money changing hands and that's extremely difficult to see," Booton said, adding bylaw officers do not have the power to pull motorists over like police can.

She said it would be a "major disaster" if an unlicenced taxi got into an accident and the Town's main concern is safety.

"We want to make sure that citizens are aware that they might be accepting rides from unlicenced taxicabs," Booton said, adding she could not say if the complaints to date have involved one or several suspected illegal taxicabs.

The Town had licensed taxicab owners, drivers and brokers since 1981 - currently licenced brokers include McKabb and E-Z Taxi – with regulations designed to ensure safe and insured drivers and cars.

The Town is asking residents who think they may have used an unlicenced taxicab to call enforcement staff and 905-873-2601, ext. 2344.

In May, following several months of investigation,

Town bylaw enforcement staff charged the owners of North Halton Taxi, Clair Dolson and his mother, Dorothy Dolson of Acton, with a number of bylaw offences, including dispatching unsafe, uninsured cabs with faulty meters and unlicenced drivers.

Clair Dolson faces six charges with respect to his former broker's licence; Dorothy Dolson faces seven charges with respect to the taxi cab owner's licence.

Staff said Clair Dolson also faces a Highway Traffic Act charge of driving without a driver's licence and a charge of delivering liquor or beer without a licence issued by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission.



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