

Acton councillor wants meeting with Acton East developers over lack of construction activity

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette is fed up with the Acton East developers delaying construction on homes and a commercial area in that community.

"It's time we had a meeting with the Acton East developers to find out where they're going," he told his council colleagues last week. "Not a thing has happened."

In 1995-96, the Ontario Municipal Board gave three developers approval to build in Acton east (land fronting Hwy. 7, beside and across from the new Acton Arena and Community Centre). Since then, no development in that area has occurred.

However two recent projects in Acton—the development of the Leathertown Junction plaza and the move of Home Hardware to Queen St.—have been impacted by the Acton East developers' objections, said Bonnette.

For example, the plans by developers of Leathertown Junction plaza, located at the corner of Queen St. and Eastern Ave. is conflicting with the town and OMB-approved plans of Brookfield Homes to build a 75,000 to 80,000 sq. ft. commercial area. Brookfield is objecting to the Leathertown Junction proposal, but is not indicating when it intends to build on its site.

Bonnette has directed staff to arrange another meeting with the developers to find out why they aren't proceeding. "At least see if they are marketing the area," Bonnette said.

The three developers are Rinarin (also

known as Monmar Homes), Brookfield Homes (formerly Coscan) and Bondarch (Sandglen). Rinarin has approval to build 190 single-family homes on the north side of Hwy. 7 beside the Acton Arena. Across the road, Brookfield Homes has approval for a plan of 200-single family homes, two elementary school sites and a park. As well Brookfield has a plan for a 75,000-80,000 sq. ft. commercial area—a community-based plaza which will include a 30,000 sq. ft. grocery store. South of Brookfield, Bondarch has approval for 109 single-family homes.



RICK BONNETTE

According to Glenn Wellings, Halton Hills manager of development review, since OMB approval, these developers have not gone any further with their projects. He said a meeting will help find out the developers' future plans.

"Acton is a lot different from Georgetown in that people want more development... and the merchants especially, they want some growth to help the economic climate in Acton," said Wellings. "I think everybody in the town wants this to occur, but it has been very slow."

Ward 4 Councillor Ron Chatten who has expressed frustration this year with the lack of commercial development in Georgetown South, told Bonnette at the meeting, "Will you trade 100 houses for one convenience store?"

Chatten told this newspaper a meeting between the town and Georgetown South developer, Halton Hills Village Homes Inc., has been arranged for this month.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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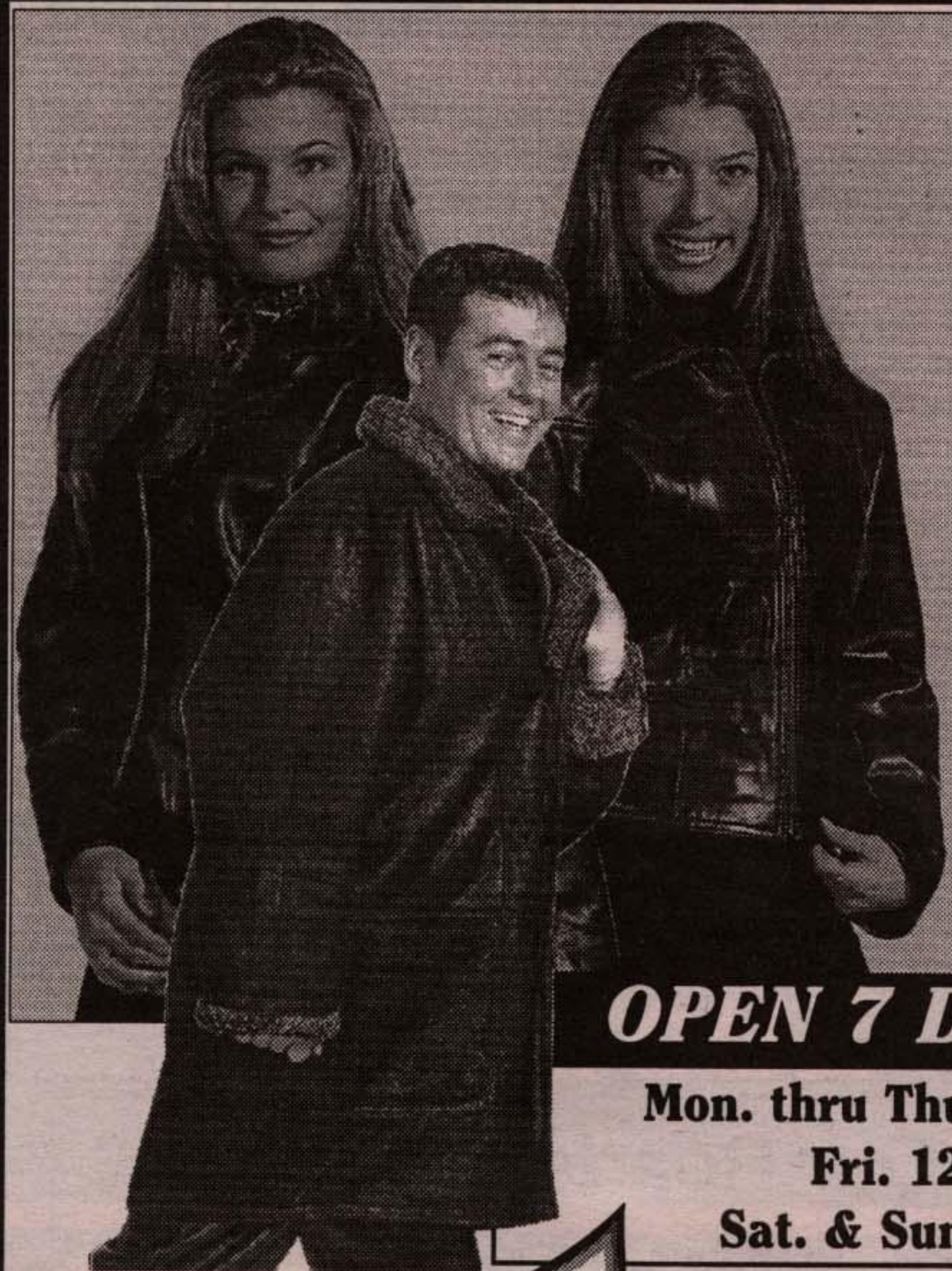


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