

Business group offers alternatives to controversial portable sign bylaw

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quently and kept in good order and all say that a substantial percentage of their business is generated by these signs.

Instead the committee recommends:

- Extending the use of portable signs from three 30-day permits to four 60-day permits to allow businesses time to promote specials, during the four seasons. Portable signs must be removed every 60 days for a period of 30 days. (The committee also recommends the town use special consideration during the winter months when sign removal may be impossible due to freezing conditions.)

- Businesses without a ground sign may apply for three permits a year for a period of 122 days each until January 30, 2005 (which is the end date of a building permit fee refund incentive period). This will allow businesses time to move towards more permanent ground signs and protect tenants with landlords who refuse to add a ground sign.

- Businesses displaying A-frame (sandwich boards) signs may erect one small boulevard sign during business hours only. These signs must have an annual permit.

- Temporary poster signs should be removed more frequently and should be part of the town's ongoing maintenance routine. The committee is recommending fines to deal with repeat offenders.

- Community event signs, which announce or provide direction to a community event or charity event, cannot be erected more than 30 days before an event, must be removed within 48 hours after the event and must be approved with a special event permit.

- A portable sign permit would cost \$95 for each 60-day period and \$95 annually for an A-

frame boulevard sign.

- The town should hire a public relations-oriented person to fill the vacant sign bylaw officer position so the town and businesses can work together to improve the look of the town.

The committee dropped many their ideas due to federal, provincial and regional legislation restricting what the town could do said Buchanan.

The committee also says that many businesses could convert their temporary signage to permanent signage with a little education and intends to develop, with the help of the Chamber of Commerce, a flyer to assist and educate businesses on good advertising practices.

Businesses with portable signs have received yet another reprieve from the town's bylaw enforcement officer until the Nov. 3 meeting when council will consider amending the sign bylaw with the committee's new recommendations.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

Friends up for honour

Heritage Halton Hills (HHH) has nominated, and council approved, the Friends of the Old Seed House Garden for a Heritage Community Award from the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Jane Fogal, chair of the Friends of the Old Seed House Garden, thanked council and HHH for the nomination saying the garden was about preserving the heritage of the Dominion Seed House right from the start. That history is documented on its Web site: www.oldseedhousegarden.com



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Safety Recall Notice: 26" Mastercraft Axe

Product number 57-5121-8

Further to signage previously posted in-store Canadian Tire would like to remind customers that it is voluntarily recalling a 26-inch Mastercraft axe sold between September 2001 and February 2003 due to a potential safety issue. It has been determined that some of the units may not perform as intended when subjected to heavy use, possibly causing the axe head to detach from the handle.

Customers who have already exchanged their 26-inch axe for a new one are not affected by this recall and the new units continue to be safe for use. Product sold since March 2003 is not included in this recall.

Action to take if you have purchased this product:

Canadian Tire has been notified of four incidents where minor injuries have resulted from use and is requesting that customers discontinue the use of this product immediately and return it to their nearest Canadian Tire store for a full refund or product exchange.

How to identify this product:

- The Mastercraft 26-inch axe can be identified as follows:
- 1) Product number 57-5121-8 appears on the handle of the axe
 - 2) If it was purchased between September 2001 and February 2003

