

Historic home to get retrofit

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer



DEVEREAUX HOUSE

The Friends of the Devereaux House have received two grants totaling about \$64,000 to retrofit the heritage house on Trafalgar Rd. at Maple Ave. with energy efficiency.

"Part of it is going to be a ground source heat pump," said Councillor Jane Fogal, "and thanks to this grant from the Green Municipal Fund, we've probably got one of the first heritage buildings that has a ground source heat pump. This is a great aspect to our Green Plan in Halton Hills... there is zero carbon emissions with this."

Fogal, however, was not pleased that one grant of \$34,000 will go towards one-third of the cost of the heat pump, and the second, worth \$30,000, must be used solely to hire a

consultant to evaluate the results of the project.

"That's \$30,000 to hire a consultant to go out and prove that this house is more energy-efficient once we put in new windows and caulking and ground source heat pump," said Fogal, "and that's the way we're doing grants in this country. And it just astonishes me it would take a year and half to do the legal work before they would give us the money after they had approved us. I'll be more cautious in the future (when applying for grants) because there's big strings attached to it."

Council thanks snowplow operators

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Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis hopped aboard a Town snowplow recently for a ride-along to get a perspective of a driver's day.

"Yes, there can be a mailbox knocked off or a sign taken down ... but you can soon find out if oncoming traffic will not give up at least half of the road to a plow, it becomes a mailbox, a sign or a vehicle accident," he said.

The Town clears approximately 180 kilometres of rural roads during a record amount of snow this year, he said.

"I commend the Town of Halton Hills public

works staff for their great attention to rural snow clearing," said Lewis. "We have snow, snow blowing, icy conditions, it could be treacherous driving ... it's nothing short of awesome."

He read a message of thanks to the Town's snowplow drivers for their work on rural roads this winter, on behalf of himself and his rural colleagues, Councillors Joan Robson and Clark Somerville at a recent council meeting. Mayor Rick Bonnette extended that thanks on behalf of the rest of council to the snow plow drivers who work in the urban areas of the town too.

The Town recently settled a contract dispute with the union representing the snowplow drivers and other outside workers.

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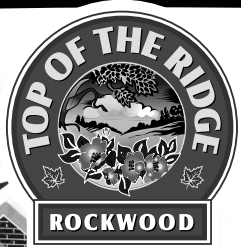


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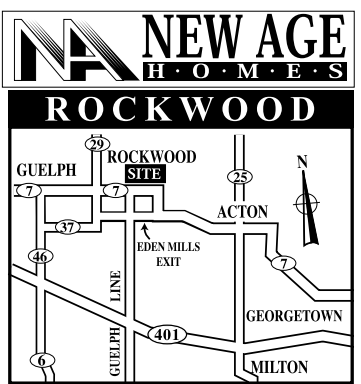
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