

# Former mayor threatens Council with OMB appeal

By Frances Niblock

Town efforts to protect the heritage of the former Barber Mill property in Norval took a testy turn last week when former mayor Kathy Gastle threatened to take the current council to the Ontario Municipal Board if it forced a heritage designation on the property at this time.

Gastle, appearing for owner Victor Boutin, who initially requested the heritage designation to protect and preserve the former paper mill, said the designation is premature.

Boutin wants to build a 14-storey, 240-unit apartment building, a four-storey, 41-unit hotel and a 50,000-square-foot building with a store, art gallery, banquet hall and restaurant.

Gastle, armed with a

Town staff report that said there's no immediate need to proceed with designation against the wishes of the owner, asked for time to resolve planning issues.

The report also asks Halton Hills to list the property on a register of significant heritage resources and requires the owner to prepare a heritage impact assessment.

That isn't enough for Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson, a member of Heritage Halton Hills, who questioned the two-year delay, and tried to convince her colleagues to approve the designation at the July 10 council meeting, saying "demolition by default or by neglect" is occurring in some buildings on the property.

"It is incumbent upon us

to move ahead – the owner of the property has every intention of designating this property anyway – this does not in any way hinder the developer with any studies..." Johnson said.

Recent changes to the Ontario Heritage Act give municipalities power to protect significant heritage resources by refusing to issue demolition permits.

For properties that have not been designated, councils can issue a notice of intent to designate, voiding any permits for alteration or demolition of the property. Staff noted Boutin has not asked for demolition permits and has open building permits for stabilization work on three buildings.

Acton and Regional Councillor Clark Somerville said just having the power to force a designation doesn't mean they should use it.

"It's premature – we have a commitment from the owner who wants a heritage impact study," Somerville said.

Peter Orphanos, representing the Barber Mill Credit Valley Association, the Sierra Club and Credit River Alliance called for an immediate heritage designation on the property, arguing the site has immense cultural and ecological significance beyond the boundaries of Halton Hills.

Council wants the heritage impact study completed within six months.

BRANCH No. 197 **LEGION NEWS** By Wayne Young P.R.O.

With the hot lazy days of summer upon us, what better place to spend an enjoyable afternoon than down here at your Branch on the "Patio by the Lake," or in the air conditioned lounge.

Why not come down and throw some horseshoes. We have three pits just calling your name and with regular shoes being tossed each Thursday night at 7pm and Saturday afternoons at 3pm what better way to meet new friends.

Don't forget, the last day to purchase your bus tickets to Rama on July 29 is this

Saturday, July 22.

Have you been naughty this year? I have, but no matter because Saturday, July 29 is Christmas in July here at your Branch. The fun starts at 8pm in the Games Room.

Congratulations to our newest Smart Serve inductees. Smart Serve will be needed in the future to work bar functions in the main hall and if you are interested in obtaining yours, please see your bar crew chief, Comrade Tammy Whyte.

**Acton Leathertown Festival August 13, 2006**

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## ACTON SENIORS' RECREATION CENTRE

BY JULIE CONROY

Not too much to report on this week. The card and cribbage players are still out on Thursday mornings, and the bid euchre players in the P.M. There were no mooners this week.

If you are wondering what the Acton Seniors Centre has to offer you, pop in and take advantage of the temporary pass which enables you to visit the Centre during July and August at no charge. In September our annual membership drive will take place. It will prorate the membership for the rest of the year, plus 2007. In September we will have an open house showcasing the many different programs offered at the Centre; hopefully we will see you here.

Watch for our booth at the Leathertown Festival in August. We will be showcasing some of the beautiful crafts made by some of our members at the various classes we offer whether it is painting with water colours, paper tole, wood carving, crocheting, or sewing.

The next trip to Rama will be on Wednesday, July

26. Call Ruth if you can't make it, or, if you would like information call her at 519-853-5124. The August Rama trip will be on August 23. If Wednesdays are inconvenient, I understand the Rama trip in September will be on a Thursday, September 28.

Seventeen people from Acton joined the Georgetown members on a trip to Port Hope. The weather was beautiful, which added to the pleasure. Luckily it wasn't the day before when it rained most of the day.

The trip planned for August 1 to Muskoka is completely full and there is a waiting list. There is lots

of room at the moment for a trip on September 5. It's the one that incorporates a train ride, and a trip on the Trent Severn channel. You travel by coach to Stouffville to board the train, have lunch in Uxbridge, then off to Lake Scugog to board the MC Woodman and enjoy a glass of wine while you learn a little about the history of the area. There will be time to shop after, in Port Perry before returning home.

Keep those suggestions coming for the mascot to represent the Acton Seniors Centre.

This weeks 50/50 was won by Lydia Bennett.

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