

## Rockwood woman dies after 3-car collision

A three car collision on Monday afternoon of this week took the life of a rural Rockwood woman.

Four people were injured in the collision and taken to Guelph General Hospital where Mary Macerello, 40, of RR 3, Rockwood succumbed to her injuries. The collision occurred about 2:56p.m. on Wellington Rd. 124 near the Jones Base Line.

Wellington OPP said Krystal Leach, 23, of Guelph was westbound on 124 in a 1995 Ford and lost control, crossing into the eastbound lane where it was struck by a 1997 Mercury driven by Henry Friesen, 80, of Orangeville and again by a 1995 Toyota driven by Mary Macerello.

Investigation into the collision is continuing. Police are asking anyone who may have witnessed the collision to call Constable Lisa McGinnis at 519-822-7250.

## Milton councillors, John Snobelen square off over development fee

By Maggie Petrushevsky

Public complaints about development charges for construction of a car barn at the Halton Country Radial Railway museum may just have destroyed the good relationship between the Town of Milton and the 52-year-old museum.

Former provincial cabinet minister John Snobelen who made the comments, says that was a risk that needed to be taken as a last resort.

The remarks centre around the town's \$97,000 fee for building a shell large enough to accommodate 25 railway cars at the museum presently rotting and corroding from exposure to the elements. The building is expected to cost \$350,000 but the fee is based on the size of the building's footprint rather than on its monetary value.

Tom Twigge, general manager of the Ontario Electric Railway Historical Association which runs the museum south of Rockwood, says the de-

velopment charges for the proposed barn are excessive given that the museum is a not-for-profit organization.

Local politicians however, are most puzzled and infuriated that Snobelen who now lives west of Acton, should choose to get involved.

"People need causes and I guess this is his," says Milton Mayor Gord Krantz. "I thought the museum people understood what council's position would be when they left our meeting (some months ago). We're dealing with public funds and you have to be very careful how you give away or not collect them."

Snobelen told The Toronto Star that Milton's treatment of the non-profit organization is just another example of how development charges have become the "crack cocaine" for local politicians.

"You are left with one of two conclusions: Either they actually believe there is nothing they can do and I find that hard to swallow, or they just don't care," he is quoted as saying.

He told The New Tanner that the charges were "just wrong." Nowhere is it written that council "can't help an organization pay the charges" levied for development fees and he had personally visited with Milton Mayor Gord Krantz in the belief council would correct the fee.

"I had hoped that council would not mind having this brought to their attention," he says. "Believe me, going

public was a last resort."

Snobelen denies he has any interest in returning to politics and says he got involved when he was contacted by someone involved with the construction or funding for the building.

Milton Coun. Cindy Lunau disputes the allegation about not caring about the museum and points out that council has granted the museum about \$160,000 over the past five years through its Milton Community Fund. The fund is money given to the town by the province because of the slots at Mohawk. It is overseen by a volunteer group who make recommendations to council about who should receive grants. But council must approve those grants, Lunau stresses.

In that time only three other organizations, including Milton hospital, have received more money from the fund. In fact, the museum received a grant of \$47,820 just two weeks ago to restore two boxcars for storage of archives.

In contrast, there is another private museum in town with a similarly restricted public opening period which also draws tourists from across the province. The former Ontario Agricultural Museum, now called Country Heritage Park, has only received \$47,000 from the Milton Community Fund since the fund's inception. That's less money in total than the railway museum's latest single grant.

"I believe Milton council has been one of the museum's most loyal supporters and to suggest otherwise is ignorance of the facts,"

she says. Likewise, she adds, "I believe Snobelen's comments are doing the organization and the people who care for the museum a grave disservice."

Coun. Jan Mowbray, in whose ward the museum is located, is mystified by claims that council is unwilling to help the museum. "The town's share of those charges is only \$55,000," Mowbray says. "I understand no one has asked either the school board or Halton Region to waive their portion of the fee."

Mowbray said it might be possible to help the museum by changing the town's development charges bylaw to exempt not-for-profit groups. But that would require public process and take time and could not be completed this year.

Twigge says the recently received funds cannot be switched from the archives project to the development fees and council's decision has left the museum with three choices. They can seek help from the town to offset the fees; they can hope a benefactor will come forward to pay the fees; or they can build smaller buildings with affordable development charges. However that will leave artifacts outside to deteriorate because some of their cars and other artifacts are already on the edge of being salvageable.

Lunau questions why fees should be waived since not-for-profit groups expect the same services such as police, fire, and roads, as other community facilities receive and development fees are what pays for those services.

*"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."*  
St. John 4:23 KJV

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