

Fallbrook Farm heritage designation on hold

By Frances Niblock

Until they hear from Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) officials about the future of Fallbrook Farm near Ballinafad, Town councillors will defer final approval of a heritage designation of the McClure log cabin, McClure mill and Silver Creek Bridge on 27 Side Road at the Ninth Line.

The deferral move originated with Ward Two Councillor Joan Robson, a CVC board member who was absent from Monday's council meeting

when Georgetown Councillor John Duncan raised it on her behalf.

Duncan said CVC wants to come to the January 25 council meeting as a delegation. After Council moved to proceed with the heritage designation last month, the CVC Board of Directors voted to formally appeal the designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Board also said that no further financial or human resources be used from its limited budget to pursue the restoration and operation of Fallbrook House.

The Friends of Fallbrook will hold a strategy session next month to plan its next moves in the campaign to save the 19th century log cabin, mill and bridge.

The heritage designation approved by councillors before Christmas averted the threat of demolition raised by the owner, CVC, and put the ball in the court of the Friends of Fallbrook, an as-yet unincorporated group that believes the 500 years of history on the property must be preserved.

"I just think that once things are demolished – there's no saving them. You can't go back in time," said Friends member Anne McIntyre, who was raised in the Ballinafad community.

"I believe that given some time it (the log cabin) will be able to be developed into a viable building, viable meaning worthwhile and useful to the community," McIntyre said on Sunday, pointing to Acton's renovated Town Hall Centre that was saved from demolition to make way for a parking lot, and is now resuming its place in the community.

"Once it's torn down it's too late. When you look at the train station we used to have in Acton that was part of the Town's history – it's gone now, and can't replace," McIntyre.

"I'd rather take some time and see if something useful can be developed rather than see something destroyed."



STILL FLOWING: The mild winter has left the streams and brooks still flowing without ice as evidenced by this photo taken at Churchill Rd. S. and Glen Lawson last Tuesday. - Ken Baker photo

Fatal accidents down 40%

The Halton Regional Police Service's three-pronged approach of education, engineering and enforcement - in cooperation with the Region of Halton and local community partners - has helped reduce motor vehicle related fatalities on local roads by over 40% in 2009. Last year, 10 people died in motor vehicle collisions

in Halton, compared to 17 people in 2008.

A disturbing factor remains however; out of 17 deaths in 2008 it was found that alcohol was a contributing factor in four of them while not wearing a seatbelt was a contributing factor in two of the deaths. In 2009 alcohol played a role in three deaths and not wearing a seat belt was a contributing factor in four deaths.

"Responsible drivers have as powerful an influence on improving road safety as do police or engineers," said Chief Gary Crowell. "Buckle up, slow down, don't drink and drive, and don't be a distracted driver. These are simple, easy ways you can help ensure you

arrive safely at your destination."

Motorists are reminded that the cost of careless driving in Ontario is going up in 2010 for several serious traffic violations:

- Following a Fire Truck too closely \$400
- Fail to Stop at a Red Light \$260
- Fail to Wear a Seat belt \$200
- Fail to Move into another Lane for Emergency Vehicle – if safe to do so \$400

Unfortunately the human cost of careless driving is not enough of a deterrence for some motorists, so the Province is increasing fines associated with these offences under the Highway Traffic Act. The increases will not affect

any driver who operates his or her vehicle within the speed limits and laws as set out in the Highway Traffic Act, which police are responsible for enforcing.

Also, effective February 1, 2010, those drivers who text, type, email, dial or chat using a hand-held device could be fined up to \$500 under Ontario's new distracted driver laws. 9-1-1 calls while driving are exempt.

The Halton Regional Police Service encourages the public to help do their part in improving road safety by driving to arrive alive.

Fire Report

Faulty equipment

A faulty carbon monoxide detector is blamed for alarm activation at a Coles Court residence last Monday at 5:56 p.m. Acton firefighters found no trace of the deadly gas when they checked out the house.

Unknown odour

An odour that caused a Queen Street East homeowner to call 911 at 3:08 last Monday afternoon appeared to be coming from the furnace motor. The furnace was shut down until the homeowner could call for servicing.

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