

Some water finally released for Acton

The five-year freeze on Acton development has partially thawed with Halton Region's release of 100 SDE – single development equivalents – or measures of water system capacity.

Who gets how much of the limited amount of water capacity is now the big question – one to be answered when Town planners meet with developers who want to develop.

Town Council will split the long-awaited water allocation into three pools – 25 per cent for commercial, industrial and institutional development, 25 per cent for residential development and 50 per cent in a flex-pool to use when “development trends emerge” after years of no growth in Acton because of no water.

Right off the mark, developer David McNally – who said Acton needs a bathtub of water and got a cup – asked Council to earmark 35 SDE for his 60-acres of industrial property on Main Street, north of the railway tracks. He said the land had a water allocation when Magna was interested in building a parts plant, but lost the water when the potential deal fell through.

McNally said he was “ecstatic” and “euphoric” with the water allocation, but suggested instead of half going into a flex-pool, Council should restore at least 30 SDE to his property.

“We’ve been out in the desert forever,” he argued, and although Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson initially asked councillors to support McNally’s re-

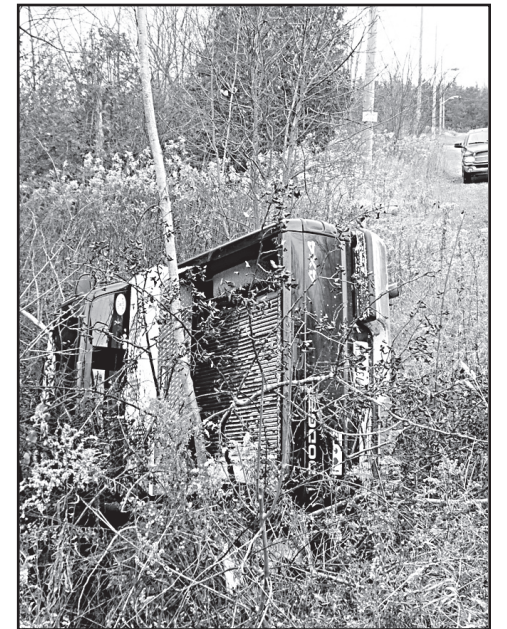
quest so the water wasn’t “snapped up” by someone else, she withdrew the suggestion following a strong admonition from CAO Dennis Perlin that any allocation should wait until there’s an actual commitment to develop, because “it’s not so easy to take it back.”

Council did include the McNally name in a recommendation to staff to review the status of inquiries, active applications and consult with known proponents of Acton development to develop a strategy for specific provisional allocation of the water service capacity.

Mayor Rick Bonnette, who said the allocation came “out of the blue,” called it a good start because the town has lost business opportunities in the past because of the



VEHICLE VANDALISM: This Chevy Silverado truck was one of several vehicles damaged overnight Saturday/Sunday in the Kingham Road-Highway 25 areas. – Frances Niblock photo



DODGE DITCHED: The driver of this Dodge Ram truck was not injured after skidding into the ditch on Wallace Street, just north of McDonald Boulevard around 11 a.m. on Sunday morning. – Frances Niblock photo

lack of water servicing capacity.

Retiring chief planner Bruce MacLean said staff will sit down with affected parties as quickly as possible, and report to Council early in the New Year with recommended allocations.

Water conservation

Halton should supply and install three-litre, high-efficiency toilets in every Acton home – for free – according to Acton Councillor Jon Hurst who said debate over allocating limited water servicing system allocations offers a “tremendous opportunity” for a comprehensive water conservation plan.

As Council debated how to allocate 100 SDE

– single development equivalents – of water capacity recently released by the Region, Hurst lamented over the time and money already spent trying to find water for development over the past years.

He called Halton Region’s current low flow toilet rebate program – a \$65 rebate for replacing inefficient toilets with six-litre toilets and \$75

for high-efficiency 4.8-litre toilets, a “token effort, at best.”

“The technology now has brought us three-litre toilets that ... function,” he said at Council last Monday, adding they should be seeing some effort by the Region on water conservation.

Hurst said replacing all of the old toilets in Acton could result in a

“very substantial” water consumption and treatment savings, and provide enough water to fill out development in Acton.

At the next Council meeting, Hurst will table a Notice of Motion asking Halton to look into any and all water conservation initiatives – including enhanced low-flow toilets and more efficient faucets and showers – in Acton.

GRAND OPENING

Acton GLOBAL PET FOODS

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Coffee • Cake
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Saturday, November 27

PET PICTURES
WITH SANTA - \$5

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12-4 p.m.

Police/Fire Report

Hog heist

A \$24,000 Harley Davidson motorcycle was stolen from the garage at a Third Line North residence some time between November 12 and 16. The licence plate of the 2009, FHX bike is 3422D.

Forced entry

An undisclosed amount of cash was stolen during a break-in at Super Cuts Salon on Mill Street last Tuesday.

Store theft

An undisclosed amount of cash and cigarettes were stolen from the B&B Convenience store on Mill Street early Monday. Police heard a security alarm at 2:53 a.m., and discovered broken glass. They found that a brick had been thrown through a window.

Wet surprise

The driver of a 1998 Pontiac that ended up in Fairy Lake near the dam late Saturday night was charged with careless driving. He told police his brakes failed as he drove northbound on Victoria

Avenue at the Mill Street East intersection and he slid, nose-first, through a barrier and into the lake.

Vehicle vandalism

Numerous vehicles parked in the Kingham Road-Highway 25 area overnight Saturday/Sunday were vandalized, including a Chevy Silverado pickup truck that was damaged by a large rock that was left at the scene.

False alarm

A faulty CO detector is blamed for a false alarm at an Acton Boulevard residence at 12:10 p.m. last Thursday.

Faulty equipment

A faulty combination CO and smoke alarm caused a false alarm at a Beardmore Crescent residence at 5:47 last Friday morning. No help was needed and the homeowner was advised to buy a new detector.

No leak

A thorough check in the area of 146 Main St. East did not turn up any trace of natural gas. A potential leak was reported at 8:51 last Tuesday morning.



ACTON 2010 CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM

Applications will be accepted at

The Salvation Army Church

114 Mill Street East, Acton on the following dates

Saturday, November 27

10:00 am - 12 Noon

Applications must be completed in person. Applicants are requested to bring Identification for all family members.

Acton Christmas Hamper Committee

The Salvation Army Family Services • Acton Rotary Club
St. Vincent Charities of St. Joseph, Patron of Canada
Knights of Columbus, Acton Council 8050