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# The Canadian Champion

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## Rural couple gets retirement land split

By NORMAN NELSON

Halton Region has decided not to stand in the way of a Milton tree farmer who wants to set aside a small portion of his 50-acre property for his daughter's family to build a home.

Harold and Audrey Denny sought

### Say police

### Duo saved woman's life

An owner of a Milton construction company and one of his employees are being credited by Halton Regional Police with saving the life of a 42-year-old Milton woman following a single vehicle accident on Sixth Line, just south of Highway 7, early Wednesday evening.

Halton Regional Police constable Greg Casson said Sharon Archibald was plucked from her burning car by 44-year-old Roy Nellis, owner of Nellis Construction, and 31-year-old Ross Hewer, an employee of the company.

"There's no doubt in my mind that they saved her life," he said.

Police said the 1980 Buick Riviera, of which Ms Archibald was the sole occupant, was southbound on Sixth Line just after 6 p.m. As the vehicle came to a crest of the road, it apparently encountered a northbound vehicle, and then veered off the road, rolling over before smashing into some trees.

"We're interested in finding out who was driving the northbound car," said constable Casson. "We would like to speak to the driver. The only description we have is a small, dull grey-coloured car."

Constable Casson can be reached at 878-5511, ext. 435.

An area resident, who heard the crash immediately phoned Nellis Construction. Mr. Nellis, a Sixth Line resident and a friend of the accident victim, was first on the scene.

Cst. Casson said Ms Archibald was admitted to Georgetown Hospital in serious condition and later transferred to Mississauga General Hospital.

the land severance under a part of the Region's planning act allowing farmers to set aside land for retirement or farm help purposes.

The couple say they're now in their retirement years and need their daughter's family around to help tend the woodlot.

Regional planning staff agreed the application would likely have been supported if it were coming from a more traditional farm.

Tree farming, however, isn't even in the Region's definition of farming, and on this scale it doesn't generate sufficient farm-related income to meet the criteria.

Mr. Denny responded to both points.

He said the couple have been faithful stewards of the land since they moved there almost two decades ago.

Milton councillor Bill Johnson agreed: "Trees are equal in importance to ordinary farming. We pay lip service to rain forests in Temagami and the Amazon. Here's a chance to protect some trees in Halton, and protect them for life."

On the second point, Mr. Denny, who runs an insurance business in Acton, indicated that many farmers have had to acquire additional income. "Remuneration for farm products is going down while the cost of running a farm is going up."

Halton Mayor Russ Miller sympathized. "When they purchased the property 18 years ago they could have severed it into several lots but they chose not to, and instead kept it as one parcel which they have reforested. Now circumstances are that they are asking for one severance."

Debate at Wednesday's council meeting seemed to focus on whether the Dennys were a legitimate exception to the rule.

With unanimous support from those Milton councillors (Mayor Gord Krantz, Brad Clements and Bill Johnson) and Halton Hills (Mayor Russ Miller, Marilyn Serjeantson, Joe Hewitt and Rick Bonnette), Halton council decided by a 12-6 vote that the case was a legitimate exception.

"These are extenuating circumstances — everybody agrees with that," said Mr. Johnson. The lot they're seeking, he said, "can't be farmed — even the trees won't grow. For goodness sakes, show some common sense."



### Everybody in!

Taking a dip — or a leap — in the Rotary Park swimming pool is a great way to beat the heat. Enjoying the water are (from left to right): Casey O'Neil, Seamus O'Neil, Chris Tahmart, Peter Jaki, Andrew Gluck, Chris Hesley, Jan Robinson and John O'Neil.

## Downtown is for kids Saturday

By KAREN SMITH

Saturday will be Kids' Day downtown. The morning of games and activities held in front of Knox Presbyterian Church drew more than 300 children last year.

"I think it will be super," said Sandy Martin, executive director of the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA), which is sponsoring the event. "The kids really like to have something just for them."

This year, the fourth annual event will include face painting, clowns, a water balloon toss and an appearance by the Milton Fire Department's Sparky. Four people from the Town's leisure services department will be in charge of the games and activities.

Kids' Day is increasing in popularity among children, added Ms Martin. Traditionally, it is held in conjunction with the Farmers' Market, which has become a regular Saturday happening on Main Street this year. Both events run from 7:30-11:30 a.m.

"Milton's Farmers' Market on Main Street has been the biggest draw of new faces downtown has seen in a while," she said. "The street is almost full and will be totally so when all the produce is farm-grown."

Seven markets have already been held downtown this season, and Miltonians can look forward to 15 more this summer and fall. The last one will be held Oct. 27.

Many Main Street merchants are opening their doors at 8 a.m. and closing at 4 p.m. to catch the market crowds before they head to cottage country, said Ms Martin.

The Milton DBIA is also currently planning the Tour du Canada, which takes place Wednesday, Aug. 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Once again, Main Street will be the place to watch the 3 km world class bicycling event. Canadian cyclists will compete against the best from other countries.

And Aug. 25 will be Jasper Martin Day. Historical walking tours will be held downtown from 7 a.m. to noon.

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