



## Supermarket

ONE OF ACTON'S LANDMARKS the old Tennis Club building on Mill Street North was demolished this week as workmen cleared the way for construction to start on a brand new Foodland Supermarket. Completion date for the 6000 square foot supermarket is set for mid-April of next year.—(Staff Photo)

## Big racquet at tennis club

Construction is to begin shortly on a brand new Foodland Supermarket on the site of the old Acton Tennis Club on Mill Street, the Free Press learned this week. Workmen have been busy demolishing the old clubhouse, which was used in the past by both tennis players and lawn bowlers. As soon as the demolition of the building is finished, construction on the new 6,000

square foot supermarket will start. Completion date for construction of the supermarket is mid-April, 1970. It will officially open some two to three weeks later. Owner John Edmunds already operates Brown's Good Foods, a well known independent supermarket in Hamilton. He expects to employ local people in the supermarket, with the exception of the store manager and possibly the meat manager.

## Reeve sees Peel hookup

Reeve Frank Oakes takes a gloomy view of the Steele Commission report released Monday which recommended most of Burlington be included in a Hamilton metro. "If Darcy McKeough says O.K. to the report there will be no way of holding Halton as a region," the reeve told Acton council Tuesday night. "We'll have to go with Peel." The county and the town of Burlington both object strongly about becoming part of metro Hamilton but Mr. McKeough will make the decision, Dr. Oakes acknowledged. Meanwhile, unknown to the reeve, Mr. McKeough was making it plain he favored a Peel-Halton region in a hard-hitting speech at Milton. "Burlington is in the same position as Acton. They are

being gobbled up by Hamilton the same as we would be gobbled by Burlington and Oakville," observed Councillor Greer. "What's the rules of separation," said Deputy-Reeve Tyler with a grin, "so we can form our own province." "If Peel-Halton go together it will be because of the loss of Burlington," acknowledged the mayor. He also suggested Acton could very well be taken into the Guelph-Wellington area although starting out with Peel-Halton. The Steele report issued Monday, left only a thin strip of north Burlington which would join with Milton. The new Hamilton metro would be twice the size of metro Toronto but with only one-quarter of the population.

## \$140,000 price tag on town owned land

Deputy Reeve Ted Tyler made another attempt to have his idea of selling lots on town-owned property on Cobblehill Rd. to residents reconsidered but his verbal motion was defeated at council Tuesday. No. 1 committee minutes revealed the B. Dell Corporation Ltd. was considering the price tag of \$140,000 set by the committee for the land, recently annexed from Equeusing. Mr. Tyler's proposal to set apart some of the lots had been considered at committee level on two occasions but turned down, although with praise for some of the ideas. "We have a chance here to allow workingmen to own land and we drop it," the deputy-reeve complained. He referred to a motion sponsored by the mayor at an O.M.A. convention asking the provincial government to legislate sale of land to retard speculation, which was named as the culprit eliminating workingmen as land purchasers. The mayor replied that the motion was not meant as Mr. Tyler interpreted. "We were advised to get out of the land business. We are getting out, trying to get rid of this land," declared Reeve Frank Oakes.

"I'd like to hold a piece of this land for another Senior Citizen housing job," said Councillor Greer, agreeing in part with Mr. Tyler's motion. The parcel is across the road from the projected O.H.C. senior citizen development.



TRIANGLE CLUB guest speaker G. L. Woodruff fields a question from Mrs. Lloyd Hillman following a humorous talk at the club's dinner meeting Thursday. Ex-Beardmore president Wes

Betty, who introduced the speaker, is also amused. Mr. Woodruff pinch hit for the Minister of Education, Bill Davis, who was unable to appear.—(Staff Photo)

# Propose drag strip for Matthews' farm

The mystery surrounding excavations taking place on the Don Matthews' farm on the Fifth Line of Equeusing, north of Highway 7, was cleared up at Monday night's meeting of Equeusing Council. Peter Bowman, a resident of the area, told council he had hired a lawyer to investigate and found out the property had been sold for \$285,000 and that the new owners planned to build a drag strip. Mr. Bowman then presented a petition signed by 30 people, asking council to investigate the sale and use of the land. "About 15 residents of the area

also attended the meeting. Later, Carl Bristow, present owner of the property, appeared before council and admitted he plans to build a drag strip. Mr. Bowman said he had searched the titles for the land that very afternoon and had discovered that 50 acres of the land were registered in the name of J. W. Huckle. "Why are you using Mr. Huckle's property, it's still in his name?" he asked Mr. Bristow. "As far as I know I own the property," Mr. Bristow replied. Later he added, "I can bring here in 48 hours, deeds for 150 acres."

Reeve George Currie wanted to know how much noise the proposed drag strip would create. "Well as little as possible," Mr. Bristow answered. Mr. Bowman wasn't as optimistic, informing council he could hear noise from cars at Acton-Osprey Speedway on Highway 25 and also from North Halton Kart Club near Littlehouse, at his home. He went on to say that he and his neighbours were constantly being bothered by the noises of earth-moving equipment as well. There are 20 houses averaging from \$25,000 to \$50,000 in the area," Mr. Bowman told Council.

"These people don't want a drag strip," Reeve Currie told the deputations that this was the first time anybody representing the Matthews property had come to council to explain what was going on. "If you'd have come to council when you started this you'd have saved us a lot of time" deputy-reeve Tom Hill told Mr. Bristow. However, councillor Ken Marshall reminded the deputy-reeve that Mr. Bristow really had no obligation to come to council. One member of the

deputation asked the reeve if the holding-by-law council passed last week, preventing the use of land, buildings or structures in the township for any other purpose than the one existing, would apply to the property. Another member added that 50 acres of the property was still being used as farm land. "It's for our solicitor to make a decision on this," the reeve replied. "It's the gospel truth this is the first time we knew what this was." When asked when they could expect an answer, the reeve said he would leave the matter with the township solicitor.

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## Fumes drive people from home gas company phones jammed

Fears that a gas explosion like the blast that shook Milton was imminent, caused near panic among some householders in Acton last Friday afternoon. It took nearly an hour before fears were allayed. Fumes which people identified as natural gas permeated houses and caused many people to evacuate their homes around 4 p.m. Attempts to reach the United Gas Company by telephone to find the cause were fruitless. "It left us with a feeling of utter hopelessness," said Mrs. Fred Bennett, Elmore Drive. It was almost an hour before we found out the smell was caused by a chemical in the lines that was relatively harmless, Mrs. Bennett said. "The smell was nauseating," declared Mrs. Don Dupuis, who along with other neighbors just bundled children up and left their houses. People ran around opening windows and shutting furnaces off but the smell still lingered. Neighbors in the Elmore Drive area were mystified by the strong odor which came from

some gas furnaces but not from others. "Just to not know, it was scary," confessed Mrs. Dupuis. United Gas Company manager G. A. Blackwell told the Free Press that their office in Georgetown was besieged by telephone panic. He said the "incident" was caused by an overload of odorant which had got into the gas lines and created a strong smell in the system from Oakville to Acton. Mr. Blackwell said the odor was offensive but harmless. The incident was caused by an "oversight" by workmen making repairs at a regulator station. "Normally natural gas is odorless," Mr. Blackwell explained, "and all gas companies add an odorant to the lines as a safety measure. In the proper amount you wouldn't be able to detect it but in this case some odorant slipped into the line while repairs were being made and when gas was turned on again there was an over-supply." Mr. Blackwell said the chemical, 'Captan' was a sulphur

derivative and very volatile. Although it is harmless the smell is offensive and could cause the headaches which Acton residents complained occurred following the incident. It was six o'clock before we got things straightened around but it gave us a very hectic two hours, he confessed. Fire Chief Mick Holmes, notified by Acton police, in turn found out the cause of the odor and notified residents that there was no real cause for alarm. One Acton lady telephoned her husband at work in Brampton and he came home after failing to find the cause of the smell. The gas office phones were jammed with calls and every serviceman available was out trying to calm people down. Acton residents affected thought the gas company should have better communications in the event of an emergency. "We were really frightened," said one. Some have written letters to the company in the hope something can be done in the event of another incident.



WINNING COUPON in Santarama draw was obligingly pulled at Lakeside I.O.D.E. bazaar by hard-working regent Mrs. Mary Hinton. Behind the carton full of coupons: Don Ryder.—(Staff Photo)

## Santa names winners

Santa named his next five winners in the merchants' Santarama draw, last Saturday afternoon. The draw was made at the height of the crowd at the Lakeside I.O.D.E. bazaar in the Legion hall. Winners received cash vouchers, redeemable at the stores of participating Acton merchants.

Top prize of \$30 in cash vouchers went to Mary Papillon; \$25 to Mrs. Fred Gordon, R. R. 2; \$20 to Mrs. Marlene Titon, \$15 to Gail Farrell, and \$10 to Donna Reed. With the exception of Mrs. Gordon, all live in town. This Saturday's draw will be made at 3 p.m. in front of the town office... but it's not necessary to be present to win.

## Country chase ends in smash

A high speed chase on county roads Saturday night was triggered when Constable Bruce McArthur of Acton O.P.F. did a routine check on a rented car and a 24-year-old Guelph man has been charged with dangerous driving. The vehicle was involved in an accident on the First Line, Equeusing, when it hit a tree during the chase, causing \$1,000 damage. The driver was not injured.

## Purse stolen at high school

Acton police are investigating theft of a purse containing \$17 at the high school. Lynn Froehlich, R. R. 1, Campbellville reported the theft Thursday. Constable McArthur investigated. Police also reported insecure premises at two Acton business places during the past week.

## Small plaza nixed by planners Becker's, five stores approved

One small shopping centre for Acton was approved Thursday by planning board, but another was turned down. Their recommendation of approval to zoning change, which goes now to council, was for six stores at the corner of Queen St. and Churchill road. The largest store would be a Becker's Milk store. The application was for rezoning the area to Commercial 1. The matter had also been discussed at the last meeting of the board. Turned down was the application of Altheo Construction, presented by Alfred Berry, for eight stores where the Anzac chicken

drive-in is now, at the corner of Queen St. and Acton Blvd. The drive-in would be torn down and replaced by the plaza with eight small shops below and apartments above. Mr. Berry asked for a zoning change from C3 to C1. "This wouldn't be good planning in my mind," said chairman Bob Drinkwater, and the other members of the board agreed. They felt the Becker's complex would be superior; it was on the business side of the road and continued the present series of stores there. Mr. Drinkwater told Mr. Berry that in the town's last

plaza there is still one store empty, and there are several empty stores downtown. He said he didn't see how Mr. Berry would rent these eight small stores. Across the road in the other development, the Becker's store would draw customers to the other five stores. Mr. Berry had been to planning board before, proposing stores on Main St. S. Mr. Drinkwater said he thought this first proposal was superior to the newer one which would replace the drive-in. Mr. Berry's first plans are held up by the O.M.B.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE guest speaker Bob Barnhill, left, makes a point with Allan Eastwood, newly elected member of the executive, president John Shadbolt and Beardmore member Jack Creighton following Monday's general meeting. Over 30 members turned out for the meeting.—(Staff Photo)

## Update Chamber at Monday meeting

Streamlining Acton Chamber of Commerce to invite greater participation from members and attract potential members can be a gruelling process the present executive realized following Monday night's general dinner meeting. About 30 of the Chamber's 56 members turned up at the legion hall to dine, hear Ontario director Bob Barnhill speak and try and update existing by-laws which the executive felt hampered them from doing a good job. Eight of the by-laws passed the membership by large margins but two were deferred for further study when members criticized proposed changes outlined by a committee chaired by Carl Watzek. President John Shadbolt admitted that in trying to make the Chamber more active perhaps they were being too zealous. He reviewed the past year of the organization and asked members to take a more active part. "We want new ideas, more participation and people talking about the Chamber of Commerce," he told members. Resolutions were later passed encouraging general meetings every three months and the possibility of a women's auxiliary being set up to assist with social functions.

Mr. Shadbolt praised merchants for contributing towards the Christmas lighting this year and rescuing the Chamber when it was short of money. He reviewed events sponsored by the Chamber this year including the model airplane show, which they hoped to carry on and expand, the safety committee's work, Citizen of the Year Banquet, study of parking, and a presentation about the industrial park to council. "We are trying to make the town a better place to live," he said, challenging others to assist. Guest speaker Bob Barnhill explained the role of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the relationship between it and the Acton organization. "The Ontario Chamber is your representative at the provincial level," he told Acton members. Don Lindsay's report on membership disclosed there were 56, up 12 from last year, but

fees were down slightly. There are 99 potential members in town and district and the chamber will quite likely end the year in the black. Industrial committee chairman Carl Watzek chaired the session to update by-laws which was often controversial, a fact he welcomed "because it showed there is interest." Deferred for more study were attempts to reduce votes to one for each company or association membership and another amendment which would have allowed suspension of members not carrying their load. Allan Eastwood, science department head at Acton district high school, was elected to fill the vacancy on the executive created by the resignation of Orval Chapman. He neatly parried verbal thrusts about his feelings on the by-laws deferred for further study by stating he would go along with the democratic process. Earl Jollymore, speaking on the recent survey carried out by students, announced computers were busy analyzing results before the data would be processed. Also speaking were first vice John Rol and secretary Mike DeJong. The Legion ladies served a roast beef dinner in the first of which the executive hopes will be many more general meetings.

## Car fire

Firefighters were roused about 1.45 this morning, when a car caught fire at the home of Mal Crispin, 17 Viny St. The fire was not serious, however, and was extinguished without firefighters' aid.

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