

Second medical centre, drug store - proposed plan

A full second floor on an east end plaza, to be used as a medical centre, was proposed to planning board at their meeting in the council chambers last Thursday. The medical centre would be located above the Queen St. plaza where the Red and White store was located formerly. This area would become a branch of Acton Pharmacy.

Real estate broker G. Alec Johnson made the presentation to the board, and attending the meeting with him were Dr. Craig Hutchison, pharmacist Bill Yundt and Ian Johnson. The plaza now contains a beauty shop, barber shop and milk store.

The area would have to be rezoned from commercial 3 to commercial 1, and a hearing held if neighbors objected.

More doctors

Dr. Hutchison said he would like to start construction of his new medical centre in April, and would have to begin by July. He pointed out the new medical centre would encourage new doctors to come to town, and they are desperately needed.

The present medical centre would remain in its location just off the Mill-Main corner. Mr. Yundt pointed out if he opened a second store he would have three pharmacists. Between them they would arrange to be open in turn Sundays and holidays. (Presently, no prescriptions can be filled here on Sundays and holidays when the one drug store is closed.)

Could be speedy

Secretary Grant Usher estimated the zoning change could be through in a month if there are no objections.

Mayor Doby interjected he had learned, on meeting with the cabinet the day before, that the Ontario Municipal Board was to get more staff for processing such applications.

Mr. Johnson showed board members plans of Dr. Hutchison's proposed medical centre. It could be reached by door and stairs, or else by an elevator. The elevator would be big enough for stretchers. An emergency section and X-ray facilities are included in the plans.

Members agreed readily to Acton's need for more doctors and availability of emergency services. They sought assurance the original medical centre, so handy to downtown, would remain in operation.

Opposes philosophy

Councillor Bill Coats was the only planning board member who voted against the recommendation to council that the area be rezoned to C1 for a medical centre and pharmacy. And he objected on a matter of principle.

The future of the downtown area is at stake here, Mr. Coats asserted. What's the use of our designating a commercial holding zone downtown if we are going to continue approving commercial uses on the outskirts of town?

What are we going to say to the downtown merchants—we're for you, against you or with you? They need an answer.

The mayor agreed many residential areas downtown have been classified by planners as commercial and are non-conforming; maybe this is wishful thinking.

Favor east

Norm Elliott thought Acton presented a peculiarly difficult problem with urban renewal; agreed with development away from the downtown core. The parking problem has been around for years and mainly ignored.

Sid Saitz admitted the board has no special plan for downtown. There's just not enough room.

Dave Muckle approved doubling medical services and gaining another pharmacy open more hours. He predicted the vacant stores, zoned for grocery business, would just remain vacant.

Frank Simioni said he would only be in favor of the rezoning if

assured the other medical centre would remain open too.

Got static

Mr. Johnson pointed out to the board facilities are not available downtown and the town will grow to the east. He reaffirmed the downtown parking problem. He recalled previous proposals he had made for downtown development — which met with

obstacles in the way of parking. "We got static," he remembered.

Mr. Coats reiterated if the rezoning was approved, "we might as well wipe out the downtown holding area." He maintained his stand throughout the discussion and was the sole dissenting vote against the recommendation to council.

Ted Tyler Jr. spoke to the

board to obtain their opinions on a small subdivision of "relocatable" homes. His idea was to have land he already owns on Scene St., now classified as light industrial, rezoned for use by trailers.

He estimated about 30 trailers could be attractively located on the four and a half acre property. He felt this would leave enough

room — more than in plenty of other trailer camps. Mr. Tyler stated he did not want a "shabby" park.

He would rent the property. The trailers are worth about \$10,000 fully furnished and could be paid off in seven or so years.

The town would have to get cash in lieu of taxes, he pointed out, since houses on wheels aren't

taxed as homes.

The zoning by-law would have to be amended and a hearing held.

More information

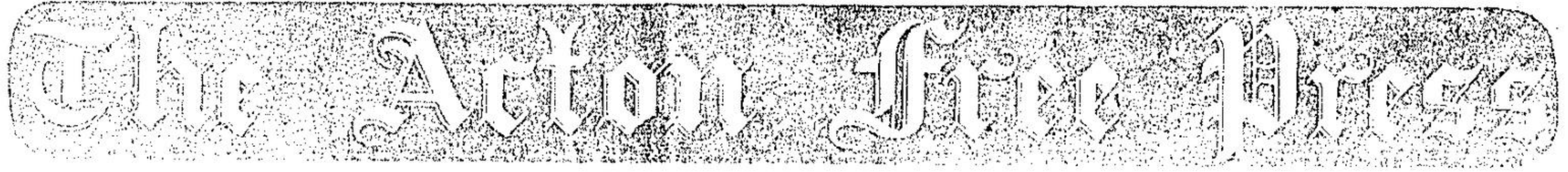
When no members of the board presented any objection, Mr. Tyler said he'd be back with a more formal application when he had more information. All planning board members

were present, chairman Sid Saitz, Dave Muckle, Norm Elliott, Lou Bonnette, Frank Simioni and secretary Grant Usher, with three members arriving slightly later after the Tri-Angl dinner, Bill Coats, Vic Bristow and the mayor.

Mr. Usher reported to the board that Project Planners had recommended a time limit of

three months be set on the provision, in the new zoning by-law, for rebuilding of non-conforming buildings destroyed by fire, etc.

During inquiries, Vic Bristow wondered if work would really begin soon on the five-storey apartment building, to be built in the vacant property on Church and Maria Sts.



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KNOX PRESBYTERIAN Church will open and dedicate a new addition to the church building this Sunday afternoon. The entire

community is invited to share in the official opening of the dignified addition with the congregation.—(Staff Photo)

Lively churches

Metro Stompers to appear at Trinity on Sunday night

New religious experiences are sweeping the Christian world and Acton is no exception.

Last Sunday, parishioners, and visitors to St. Alban's Anglican Church were part of the first "folk mass" in the history of the parish. This Sunday evening Rev. Gordon Turner of Trinity United Church is appearing with the famous Jimmy Galloway and his Metro Stompers in an attempt to relate the meaning of the jazz world to Christian life and vice versa.

Sunday afternoon the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church will officially open and dedicate a new addition to the church building with the entire community invited. And Sunday evening the Baptist Church is featuring a famous Moody science film.

The Metro Stompers appearance here at 7:30 in Trinity United is their second. In their last appearance the famed jazz group packed the church with an appreciative congregation larger than has been seen in several years.

Christian life theme

This time Rev. Turner is using the Christian life as his main theme for the service and this is divided into six sections entitled Faithfulness, Goodness, Kindness, Love, Peace and Joy.

Among the well known pieces the Stompers will play will be, "Put Your Hand in the Hand of the Man from Galilee," "The Saints," "Precious Lord Lead Me On," and the current hit "Joy to the World."

Jimmy Galloway and the Stompers will be the same group as appeared here last time with the exception of Charlie Gall, a renowned instrumentalist, who will appear on this occasion. He was ill last time.

"Obviously the traditional way of worshipping at church is not meaningful to everyone," Rev. Turner comments, "and the appearance of the Stompers is an attempt to speak the truth about the faith in a modern way."

Not everyone's "bag" Mr. Turner realizes this type of service and music does not appeal to everyone. He suggests those who can find no meaning in it would be better off staying home. He recalls the tremendous response the last service had and says this one will be as low key and easy listening. He hopes the congregation will take an active part with hand clapping, etc. to the Dixieland jazz.

In his estimation the music conveys a feeling and makes the modern day Christ relevant to those who might otherwise be turned off by the message of the church.

Scout Week

Scout-Guide Week is being suitably marked by all four branches of the Acton movement this week.

A mother and daughter banquet was held in the legion hall Tuesday night sponsored by the Guides and Brownies while a father and son dinner is planned for Knox church hall next Tuesday with the famous Ancaster raconteur "Red" Burne as guest speaker.

Sunday the entire Scout-Guide movement, in the Georgetown district, will participate in a mammoth church parade to Holy Cross church, Maple Ave., Georgetown, where a folk service is planned.

Key

It will soon be illegal in Acton to leave your car unattended with the key in it.

After weeks of consideration the new "key" by-law was unanimously passed by council Tuesday evening. It must still receive approval of the Department of Transport.

Commercial vehicles, such as those stopped to make deliveries, are not included in the regulation. "Unattended" means without a driver or adult in the car. Children don't count as attendants. Neither do dogs.

"Though I know plenty of dogs who wouldn't let a stranger reach in the car and take out a key," added reeve Oakes.

Debunks 1973 date for Halton region

Officials of the Department of Municipal Affairs described predictions that Halton County would have regional government by 1973 as pure speculation.

"It is news to me," Ron Farrow of the Department of Municipal Affairs told this newspaper Tuesday. He said there was no legislation being prepared for either Halton or Peel regarding regional government and he knew of no plans for preparation.

Plans for Waterloo

His department is working on legislation for the Waterloo and Sudbury areas to be introduced to

the Legislature but these are the only areas where regional government is likely to be introduced soon.

In Mr. Farrow's estimation, the Department would like to deal with Halton in isolation, as well as Peel and Wentworth, although the three areas are inter-related.

Two large circulation daily newspapers predicted regional government for Halton only in 1973, following Halton county's decision to drop its request for more seats on county council. A private member's bill asked for one more seat for Oakville and two more for Burlington, but the bill was withdrawn at the request of provincial treasurer Darcy McKeough and Halton cabinet ministers George Kerr and Jim Snow.

A story in Friday's Toronto Star said recent meetings behind closed doors between county council members and cabinet ministers indicate the deadline for a Halton-only regional government has been moved up, with the possibility of regional elections in October, although Jim Snow and George Kerr had both said they didn't expect regional government for Halton until Jan. 1, 1974.

But the Department of Municipal Affairs spokesman has debunked the story as speculation, such as many stories about the imminence of regional government.

Asked how the Department would react to applications for annexation from Halton and Peel, such as the Town of Acton is considering, Farrow said it has been the department's policy to set aside applications until the broader question of regionalization has been settled.

"Many applications have been set aside by the Minister," he told this newspaper, although he did not rule out the possibility of any municipality applying for and getting additional land.

Halton has made some plans for the eventual regionalization of the area with clerks and administrators from the various municipalities planning the transfer of services to a region if and when it comes. The committee was expected to have a report on its recommendations in November but the Warden has been reported as saying it will be ready by May.

Workman is pinned under tree

A workman with the Nassagaweya Township Roads Department was pinned to the ground by a tree he was felling on the Nassagaweya-Puslinch Township line Thursday.

George Dredge, 63, of R. R. 2 Rockwood, who was working with a dead-elm removal crew, had to wait a short time before fellow workers were able to release him.

The accident caused a chest injury, fractured ribs, a fractured spine and a compound fracture of the leg. He was taken to Hamilton General Hospital, where his condition is reported as fair.

Airport now east of Toronto

Whether the new international airport?

According to the Toronto Star, a confidential Ontario government map pinpoints the location as immediately south of Clarendon in Pickering township, about 30 miles north-east of the Toronto city hall.

But federal Transport Minister Don Jamieson refused to comment on this new location saying no decision has been reached and the feds are still negotiating with the province.

So take your choice—now the thinking is the new facility will be east of Toronto, and leave the poor souls in the west end alone. But don't bet on it.

Anyway, a decision on where the new airport is to be located is expected next week, just as it has been expected for the last two years. Again a decision is not an announcement so don't hold your breath!

Crowd disperses

A group of about 10, jostling and pushing outside the Station Hotel Saturday about 1 a.m., left obligingly on request of Cons. Brian Pringle. The incident problem didn't turn into a fight.

Dog races Saturday

Seven or eight teams of dogs will be participating in dog sled races at Acton park this Saturday afternoon for a trophy donated by Acton Lions Club. Races are expected to begin about 1:30 p.m.

Ont. Architects join critics of new Rockwood P.O.

Rockwood's articulate criticism of their new Guelph St. post office building probably has changed the thinking of the Department of Public Works on such matters.

Sid Samuels, project engineer for the Department of Public Works, told the Free Press this week that the Department had a series of standard designs used for post offices throughout the country and the choice for each individual area is based on economic concerns, taking into account the volume of mail the new facility will likely handle.

However, after the keffuffle with the Rockwood design where villagers, trustees and the township council soundly criticized the appearance of the building they saw arising before their eyes, it is quite probable the

Department will come up with new criteria.

Install windows

Already changes are awaiting approval for the building as requested by the township council, including installation of a vertical window at the side of the building and one window at the side.

The case came to another public airing this week when the Ontario Association of Architects issued a press release deploring that the federal Department of Public Works appears to have shown a disregard for the wishes and needs of village residents. "Upon an examination at the site, it is apparent in the centre of this quaint village, whose many old buildings are constructed in local stone masonry, the Depart-

ment is constructing a new post office building in many ways inferior to that which is desirable," the architects' association charges.

"Where the village showed foresight and concern for the future and for the quality of their built environment by acquiring land previously occupied by a school, in order to head off land speculators, the villagers feel that the Department is constructing an insensitive, incongruous structure in their village," the release continued.

Where inhabitants built well of local stone they rightfully expected a new federal building of compatible sensitivity, because they have pride in the place in which they live, the architects said. All they got in return for the present post office

was an "irrelevant misfit".

How are communities that build well and with pride to defend themselves from the apparently unconcerned bureaucracy? the architects' group asks when the largest landlord at the highest level of government appears to be so heavy-handed in its actions?

"Don't the inhabitants have the right to contribute to decisions which affect their community?"

Not consulted

However, Mr. Samuels, willing to admit villagers were not consulted about the design, said that the constructive criticism from villagers and the subsequent statement from the Ontario Association of Architects had been a profitable exchange, and all concerned would likely

benefit. Diplomatically, he suggested the Department of Public Works was at fault in Rockwood's case and economic concerns would no longer suffice when buildings such as this are constructed.

He told the Free Press this is not the first time the Department has come under fire for post office design and he thought the reaction of villagers to the building was "natural".

Functional design, he felt would have to have more aesthetic appeal if the Department hoped to keep out of hot water.

The Ontario Association of Architects entered the post office picture as a result of an appeal from the Rockwood village trustees for help in remedying the situation before the building

is completed. Trustees weren't disappointed in the response.

The association said that in the Rockwood incident it found many

of the factors contributing to some of the typical problems of (Continued on Page 5)



Front of the new Rockwood post office