

# Varied opinions on shopping downtown

Last week reporter Dave Pink asked downtown merchants for their opinions on the Acton business section. This week Dave interviewed shoppers along the town's main street to get their opinions on shopping in Acton and asked for suggestions on improving facilities.

Next week we'll find out what is happening in other nearby towns and maybe have some suggestions.

**By Dave Pink**  
Acton's downtown merchants are losing the patronage of a growing number of local residents, comments of a random sampling of town shoppers seemed to indicate this week.

The Free Press poll, taken on Mill St., was

intended to reach those people who shopped regularly on Acton's main street and could offer opinions on what would make Mill St. more attractive to the shopper. Of 36 people polled, six said they shopped for all their needs in Acton's downtown area. Some of these said they go elsewhere occasionally where there is a larger selection.

These shoppers told the Free Press they liked the congenial service of local merchants and were pleased by the relaxed atmosphere in downtown Acton. One woman said that meeting and chatting with friends along the main street was all part of her shopping day and stated that Acton stores cater more to a person her size than do the stores in other shopping centres.

Some of those who loyally patronize local

businessmen criticized the appearance of the downtown area, commenting on the condition of the older buildings, and voicing an opinion against sidewalk sales.

**Groceries only?**  
Other shoppers, mentioned they were only on Mill St. for grocery shopping, said the appearance of the main street was a big factor in deciding to shop elsewhere. A Mill St. store manager blamed the appearance of the buildings on a few Mill St. property owners who seem indifferent to the condition of the stores.

One local shopper would like to see more uniformity among the downtown stores. Sidewalk sales drew criticism from many of the shoppers questioned. One mother accused the sidewalk sales of limiting

space, making it almost impossible to wheel a baby carriage through the downtown area on busy days.

A large majority of those who shopped elsewhere claimed they got better selection as well as the convenience of one stop shopping. One shopper told the Free Press she was frustrated with the local stores lack of choice. She said she always goes elsewhere because she knows Acton stores won't have what she wants.

Most people interviewed realized it cost more money to shop out of town but considered the selection and convenience as compensation.

When asked what would make Mill St. more attractive, those polled suggested something be done to remedy the parking

problem. Many thought it would be possible to park cars along side streets and prohibit parking on Mill St. from Main to John Sts.

### Wider streets?

These people thought wider streets would attract more people and be less of a hazard to motorists. One woman questioned why delivery trucks were allowed to park on the main street and wondered why they couldn't use the back entrances.

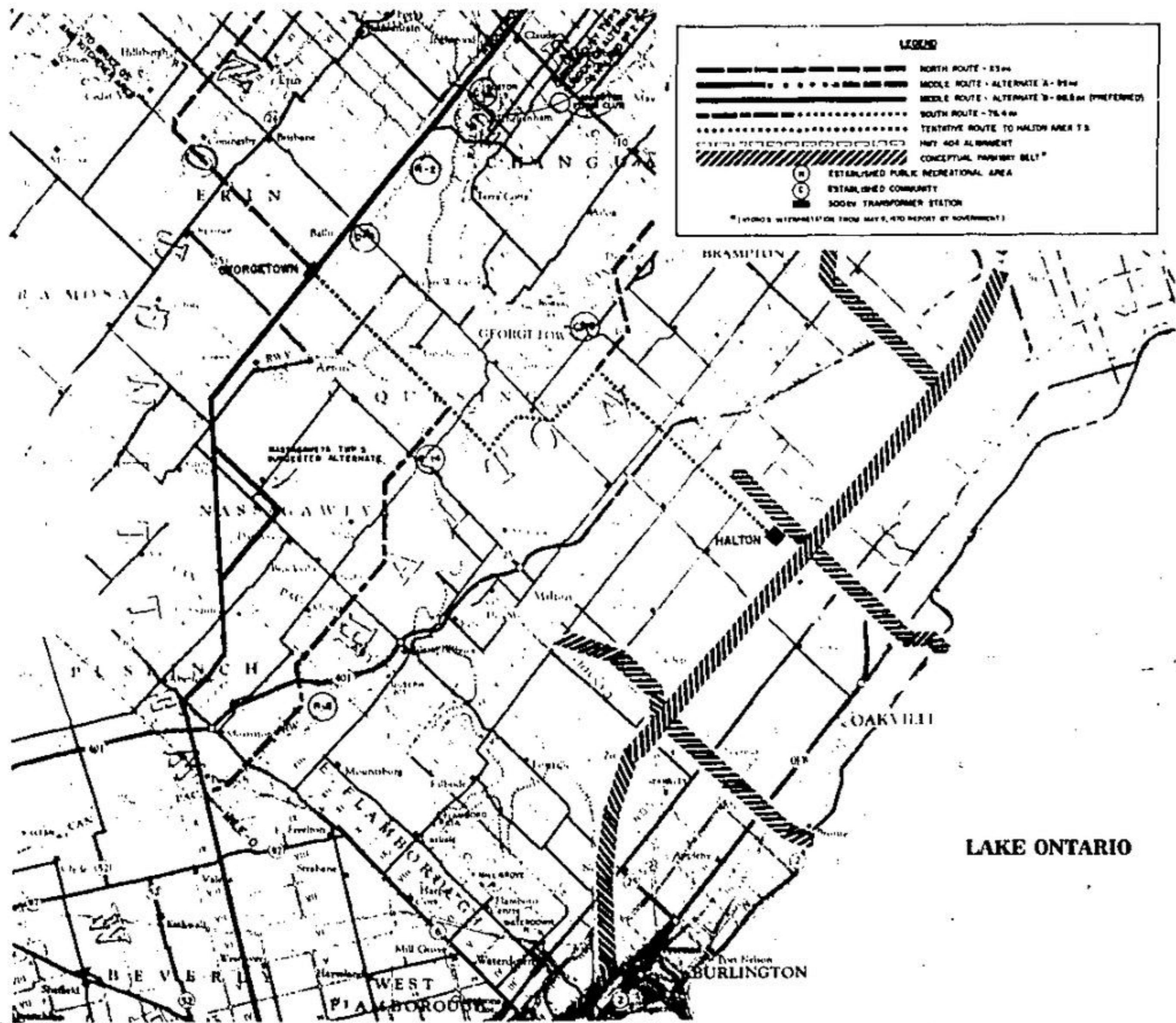
All shoppers thought the planters of flowers were a good thing and suggested more be placed along Mill St. to brighten it up. Two women suggested a Main to John mall along Mill St. would be something that would bring people into the downtown area.

# The Acton Free Press

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HYDRO MAP shows the route of the proposed North-South corridor which will link up with the main 500 kv transmission line, proposed between Nanticoke and Pickering. The proposed link would be at a new transmission station between

Acton and Ballinafad named the Georgetown area station, and travel southward, veering west below Ashgrove and then south again to the Halton substation near Drumquinn.

## Bert Hinton ACAATO vice-pres.

H.H. (Bert) Hinton of Acton, vice-chairman of the Sheridan College Board of Governors, was elected vice-president of the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario.

### Top award

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Denny won an award for the best weaving in the Huronia Festival of Arts and Crafts at Barrie over the weekend. It was the second show there in Centennial Park and craftsmen and artists from all of Ontario attended. Mr. and Mrs. H. Bessem of Acton area also participated.

### Artery cut man charged

An Acton man was charged with wilful damage after he went through a window at the pool room Saturday evening. The man, bleeding from deep gashes on the left arm, received treatment from Dr. Vukovich and was taken by police cruiser to Guelph General Hospital for an emergency operation. He suffered a cut artery. The incident happened at 9.30 p.m. Saturday.

As member of the ACAATO executive and vice-president, Mr. Hinton will share in the responsibilities of the Association to recommend to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and to the Minister, the adoption and implementation of policy which ACAATO believes is desirable for the common good of all the Ontario colleges and society.

A charter member of the Sheridan Board of Governors, Mr. Hinton was appointed to the Ontario Craft Foundation on the advice of the Board as liaison between the college and the Craft Foundation.

Former reeve of Acton and former warden of Halton county, Mr. Hinton has served on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority Board, the Halton Government Study Inquiry Commission and the Ontario Counties Association of the Province of Ontario.

The executive of ACAATO is composed of two governors from each of the four regional college districts in Ontario, plus two presidents appointed by the Committee of Presidents.



WHOOPEE!!! Jeanette Stuckless obviously enjoyed Saturday night at the Acton Jr. Hockey and Lacrosse Clubs' Gay Nineties Night. For more happy people pictures turn inside. (Photo by J. Jennings)

### Special delivery

A mailbox—including the mail inside it—was torn off its post on MacDonald Blvd. Saturday at 1:15 a.m. and thrown in a ditch. A 19-year-old Acton youth was charged by Acton police with wilful damage when he was picked up after the incident had been reported. The mail, and mailbox, were returned intact to the post office.

### Two collisions during week

Two collisions were investigated during the past week by Acton police. Involved in an accident at the Olympia drive-in lot Sunday evening were Benjamin Yeo, Mississauga, and John McNabb, Main St. Drivers involved in a collision last Wednesday were Mrs. Lois Mackenzie, Lake Ave., and Jehan Barloine, Young St.

# Hydro map reveals new Esquesing power corridor

While the spotlight has been on the proposed Pickering to Nanticoke power corridor, members of Esquesing township planning board are apprehensive that Ontario Hydro is going ahead with plans for hydro corridor that will split the township's Fourth Concession, and link up with the main 500 kw lines.

Planning board's first inkling that Hydro had plans for a North-South corridor was receipt of a map showing the proposed transmission line connecting transformer stations near Ballinafad and the Halton area transformer station between Drumquinn and Streetsville. (See accompanying map.)

"This North-South line has never been mentioned before. The first we were aware of it was at the last planning board meeting on July 31," said board member David Craig.

"We have to have a brief ready on the proposals by the end of August and certainly don't feel it gives us enough time to investigate all the ramifications," Craig said.

**Should be aware**  
"Citizens should be aware of this North-South corridor which will go through many Esquesing farms and properties," Craig said, wondering simultaneously whether Ontario Hydro had purposely withheld the information to avoid the kind of problems they have encountered on the Pickering to Nanticoke transmission line. The Solandt Commission is presently considering the implications of the Pickering to Nanticoke 500 kv transmission line. The coalition of Concerned Citizens forced the issue with a

brief accompanied by over 5,000 signatures to Ontario Premier Bill Davis. Mr. Craig said the map and the information gained from Ontario Hydro's submission to the Solandt Commission were the only sources of information available to planning board. "We are trying to find out more from Ontario Hydro about the proposal," he said, but up to press time had been unsuccessful. If the North-South corridor follow the approximate lines in the map there is no doubt that township residents will be

concerned, Craig maintains, specially in the light of the lack of information about the size and power of the proposed line or lines.

Meanwhile Ontario Hydro's submission to the Solandt Commission confirms that the Halton Area transformer station will be connected to the main corridor, but offers little more information.

**Hydro defends**  
Hydro defends their choice of route for the Pickering to Nanticoke as being based on sound, practical reasons including environmental factors

(a) it conforms to good community planning (b) it causes the least disruption to property owners and the farming community, consistent with the necessity of building lines reasonably close to population centres (c) it involves fewer river crossings and (d) affects less woodlot acreage.

A North route traversing the Escarpment in the Mono Mills area and crossing Highway 400 north of Holland Marsh was examined but found to be much less desirable than the route chosen, referred to as the Middle Route.

A South Route, which crosses the Escarpment north of Speyside, passes south of Georgetown, north of Brampton, and follows a course between Kleinburg and across Highway 11 between Oak Ridges and Richmond Hill was also considered. According to the report it was found to be more disruptive than the Middle Route because a larger number of buildings would be affected and more people would be displaced. It would also create a second artificial severance barrier near the Parkwa Belt in Vaughan and Markham townships.

Second part of the Hydro submission describes HYDRO'S ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES "and its commitment to maintain the right of way at a high standard after the line is built." Hydro says it also has a special commitment to provide special treatment in sensitive areas.

**Save trees**  
Hydro contends that only trees which affect the construction and safe operation of the line will be removed and in municipalities where wood lots are scarce will undertake to reforest an acre of land elsewhere for every acre of trees which are cut along the

## Need blood!

Red Cross officials in Guelph report the supply of blood is low and a special clinic is being held in St. George's parish hall, Woolwich St., Guelph, on Thursday, August 10, to replenish the blood bank. The clinic will be held from 1-4.30 in the afternoon and from 6.30 to 8.30 in the evening.

The Red Cross is making a special appeal to donors in the Acton and Rockwood areas, since so many patients from this area use the blood at Guelph hospitals. A special clinic last week was a flop and the Red Cross is concerned that supplies of blood could get dangerously low.

Films for children will be shown in the hall to make it more convenient for mothers to attend the clinic.



Playground paint party  
JULIE TOWNSLEY deftly applies a brush traditional Huck Finn event each being timed stroke to the fence. The kids took turns at this to see who was the fastest. (Photo by D. Pink)

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