

# Don't let Acton's downtown die, C. of C. asks

The following brief was presented to Acton council Tuesday by the Chamber of Commerce.

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The subcommittee of the Acton Planning Board has undertaken to guide those who will establish an Official Plan for the Acton area. To do this, they have taken into consideration an additional 9,000 people, that is in reference to sewers, water supply etc. Socially, they touched on education, parks and recreation, but apparently the overall picture of what kind of a place Acton would be if this guidance was followed, has escaped their consideration.

It is stated that small useless parks should be avoided because they would only serve aesthetic purposes. How can things of value be useless? Are parks only for baseball or soccer players? Can anybody say that a haven for trees, grass and wildlife, even on a minute scale is useless?

A large part of a town's life is its commercial life. These recommendations take into consideration an additional 9,000 people but it prefers a commercial zoning sufficient to serve 16,000 people. The implementation of this kind of plan would kill the central business district where at present ap-

proximately 75 businesses are located. This in reality should not be permitted to happen for different reasons, some of which shall be mentioned here.

The type of plaza mentioned is already out of date. This is readily ascertained by checking plazas of this size in Hamilton and Burlington. The plazas of today are more like "Square One"; 75 acres, 175 different stores, a 45 million dollar investment serving a whole region. The success of a small plaza is in further doubt because of the proximity of larger towns, which delegate Acton to hinterland status from which we will never

escape because the provincial legislation and the limited flow of the Black Creek waters have put a limit to our size.

A more detailed explanation and analysis in this regard was put forward in the submission to the Acton Development Corporation on October 23, 1972.

The effect of such a plaza would likely be an erosion, slow but sure of the central business district, with boarded up stores and very likely a lot of empty stores in the plaza, with little customer appeal and lack of services to the public.

On the other hand, if commercial development is needed to

serve an additional 9,000 people, and it was placed in the present central business district along with the existing 75 businesses, a great revival of downtown would take place. The town of Acton would survive as a town because the marketplace would survive. A common place for all to go would exist and where oldtimers and newcomers would meet.

Acton has sufficient commercial zoned downtown land to make all of this feasible. The problems in regard to traffic and parking, given enough thought and capital can be solved, and we would have a real viable town instead of a

Halton Hills nothing. In conclusion, it should be pointed out that a town planning study group from The University of Toronto under Professor Dakin, did a comprehensive study of Acton and its needs projected to 1980 and its findings are conveyed in a 1,000 page document available to those seriously interested in the future of Acton.

If Council should see fit to forward the Planning Boards report the Acton Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that this brief be attached to the report.

Edgar Bendicks

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## One phase leap, plaza worries

The presentation of a brief from the Chamber of Commerce at Acton council Tuesday night brought agreement that the town's growth should be slow and controlled. However no one was sure if or how this could be done.

The Chamber of Commerce brief, published in its entirety here, objected to proposals made by the planning board for the town's growth. (These proposals were printed in full in the Free Press last week). C. of C. president Edgar

Bendicks read the presentation Tuesday flanked by members Maurice Staley, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Eastwood, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stachyra, Wayne Moss, Roy Goodwin, Brendan Ahearne and John Rol.

The Chamber does not oppose the growth of the town, Mr. Bendicks assured council. Their main objection is to a big new plaza. He said plenty of land is available downtown and with some help

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ALANA TURNER AND LAURIE PICKLES

### Sabres alone in first!

It's been a long time, but Acton Sabres are finally back in first place all alone. Sabres moved a point ahead of Stayner when they dumped Penetang Hurons 6-2 in Penetang last night (Tuesday) right on the heels of their tremendous 6-2 upset of the defending O.H.A. Junior "D" champion Bradford Vaseys in Bradford Sunday night.

The last time Sabres were in first place by themselves was Sunday, November 7, 1971 the day the Central League began operation. That was 51 games ago.

Sabres had 300 fans for their last home game Friday night against Fergus, but that figure is expected to more than double for this Friday's rematch with Bradford.

### Turkey in trunk

Police who stopped a car at 2:30 a.m. Nov. 24 to check it out got a surprise - a live turkey in the trunk. Charges were laid.

Broken windows were reported at Ajax Engineering Friday. About 3:30 a.m. Sunday morning the door at Eatons was kicked in and a portable TV stolen.

Malicious damage was reported Monday at the Sheridan college trailer at the Robert Little School. Tailights were kicked in. Liquor and assault charges were laid during the week by the Acton O.P.P. A broken aerial and a lost wallet were recorded.

### Five collisions past week

Five accidents were investigated by the OPP in town this week—an unusually high number. There were no injuries reported.

First was last Thursday at 11:45 a.m. at Queen and Churchill Rd. The car driven by Ann Coleman, Milton, had estimated \$200 damage and the car driven by Jorgen Nielsen, Acton, \$125 in the collision.

Friday at 1 p.m. a car driven by Frank Davey, Agnes St., Acton, struck a parked car owned by G. W. McKenzie on Mill St. Damage to the Davey car was set at \$45 by police and at \$90 to the owner's car.

Friday at 4:15 p.m. another parked vehicle was struck, this one a pickup owned by Alteo Construction which had estimated \$100 damage. Driver involved was Irene Fasken, Kingham Rd., with \$50 damage to her car.

Saturday at Mill and Willow another collision occurred, the drivers Denis Gibbons, Main St., and Susan Schupp, R.R. 4. (The police report was not yet complete at press time).

Monday at 5 p.m. at the taxi stand cars driven by Mary Green, Church St., and Ron Bastell, Homestay Place, were in collision. Damage was \$200 to the first and \$400 to the second vehicle.



EIGHT HAPPY young ladies flash their stars after they were elevated from teenies to brownies in the annual "Fly-Up" at the Scout Hall Friday night. New brownies l. to r. are,

Jackie Colton, Lisa Johnstone, Cheryle Greenly, Pauline James, Debbie Payne, Charlene Couture, Karen Trotter and Tracy Diamond. Several parents attended the ceremony.

## 11-year-old students campaign to help bears

Two 11 year-old Acton students who found federal government policy about killing of polar bears disagreeable, did something about it.

They circulated a petition through the senior grades at the Robert Little school and collected \$16.03 to help airlift the bears to places in the Northwest Territories where they could do no harm.

The idea for the project started when the class was discussing different philosophies. The subject of Government philosophy which authorized killing of polar bears near the port of Churchill in Northern Canada came up. Churchill is close to the migratory route of the bears, who following their instincts wandered near the town to the garbage dump, an attraction for the animals.

Some Churchill residents were attacked by the bears, so the Government decided to shoot them instead of airlifting them to other arctic wastes where they could live in the natural environment.

Alana Turner found this reasoning hard to accept. "This means that one of nature's finest creations will be killed needlessly," she told the Free Press. "Although the cost is high (\$1,500) per bear to transport them to the Territories, the Government should still be able to do it."

Alana recruited Laurie Pickles to her crusade and the two decided to send a petition around to the senior students at the school on which they collected 146 names. They also collected \$16.03 to help airlift the bears to other places.

"The reason for the petition was also to let the students have a voice in what is going on in Canada," Alana and Laurie explained.

The two girls found strong support for their project.

## Masson says: Cook it right move south

Regional Chairman Allan Masson feels confident headquarters for the new Halton region can be established in Burlington or Oakville.

During a meeting of the Regional Public Works Committee last week members of that committee agreed not to move the engineering department into the former CAS office on Hugh St., Milton for the time being. Council had passed a resolution suggesting the CAS building be used as a temporary basis.

Should investigate Masson said it might be difficult to convince all councillors that the headquarters should be in downtown Oakville, but he felt if a building was available and could serve the needs for two years, it should be investigated.

When Oakville Councillor Bill Mason said the permanent site would probably have to be in Milton or near the centre of the county, Chairman Masson corrected him.

"No, I don't think it would have to be up here, not if it is cooked properly."

After making the comment Masson turned to the press table and urged reporters not to quote him. "Come on, give us a break. Don't get everyone riled up."

Masson is the chairman of a committee negotiating the future of the current county headquarters with the province. The province is interested in buying the current building used for county administration.

The province's most recent offer would provide for three different plans. The first option would see the province buy the land and the building for \$1.65 million.

The province's second option would see it buy the building and half the land for \$1.5 million and leave enough land for the region to establish new headquarters on the same property.

The committee agreed to investigate facilities at the building Brown mentioned in Oakville.



DOUGLAS PRITCHARD Clerk-Administrator

## Top staff appointed for Halton Hills

Eight top appointments for the new town of Halton Hills were recommended by Halton Hills council last week. The appointments must be ratified by the council after they are officially sworn in January 3.

The appointment of Georgetown's clerk administrator, Douglas Pritchard as Clerk-Administrator of Halton Hills was announced last week.

Mr. Pritchard came to Georgetown in October, 1971, from the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a regional unit, where he served as Clerk-Administrator.

Delmar French, clerk-treasurer of Esqueving township has been appointed Deputy Clerk of Halton Hills.

Mr. French joined Esqueving's staff in 1965 as deputy-clerk treasurer and assumed the duties of clerk-treasurer upon the retirement of K. C. Lindsay. Prior to joining Esqueving's staff, Mr. French was with the Georgetown post office.

Lloyd Peterson, treasurer of Georgetown, has been appointed Treasurer of Halton Hills. Mr. Peterson came to Georgetown in September 1970 from the township of Darlington, near Oshawa, where he also served as treasurer.

Grant Usher, at present Acton's clerk-administrator, has been appointed Deputy-Treasurer of Halton Hills. Mr. Usher came to Acton as deputy treasurer in November 1968 from Woodbridge. He was appointed Acton's clerk-administrator in March 1973, following the retirement of J. T. Hurst.

Georgetown's town engineer and assistant engineer Peter Morris and Ben Pitoni will serve the same function in Halton Hills. Peter Morris will be town engineer and Ben Pitoni will be deputy town engineer.

Mr. Morris came to Georgetown in August of this year, from Dundas, Ont. where he was town engineer. He is a graduate of University of Toronto.

Mr. Pitoni came to Georgetown at the same time as Mr. Morris. Before coming here he was with the engineering department of Etobicoke for five years. He was educated in Italy but passed the examinations for professional engineer at University of Toronto.

Douglas Sargent will take over the duties of Chief Building Inspector for Halton Hills. He has been Georgetown's building inspector since September 1970. Prior to that he was employed by Smith and Stone. Mr. Sargent was mayor of Georgetown in 1962.

Hugh Patterson, Acton's deputy clerk-treasurer will act as purchasing agent for the new town. Mr. Patterson was appointed as deputy clerk treasurer of Acton in September, 1972, coming into municipal work from industry.



DELMAR FRENCH Deputy Clerk, LLOYD PETERSON Treasurer, GRANT USHER Deputy Treasurer, PETER MORRIS Engineer, BEN PITONI Deputy Engineer, DOUGLAS SARGENT Chief Building Inspector, HUGH PATTERSON Purchasing Agent