



SHOES HAVE BEEN sold at the same Mill St. location for the past 70 years. The last three owners met together this week and looked over the latest styles, Bill Benson, Eugene Braida and Alma Swetman. Mr. Braida started in business in 1938 and after 18 years sold to Mr. Benson. He, after 17 and a half years, is selling to Alma and David Swetman. Before that Kenney Bros. sold shoes here.

## Shoe store for 70 years in same Mill St. spot

For 70 years there has been a shoe store on Mill St. in the same mid-block location.

This week ownership changes again for the fifth time—but the commodity and friendly service remain the same.

Bill Benson is selling his business, after 17 and a half years to Alma and David Swetman of Elizabeth Dr. He is with Bell Canada and she is a registered nurse, but they love living in Acton and want to stay here. They had a stint away from town in Montreal and were glad to return with their two boys this summer.

Mrs. Swetman is currently taking courses and working along with Bill Benson getting to know the customers. Mr. Swetman will be helping weekends until he retires. Their boys Chris and Mike will be doing their bit in the new family enterprise, too.

Kenney's first When button boots were first sold in this location, the store proprietors were two brothers, John Kenney and Bill Kenney. John lived on Bower Ave.; his house was demolished to make way for the post office. Bill lived on Church St. where his daughter Nora still lives. He was the father of former Citizen of the Year, the late Dr. W. G. C. Kenney.

The brothers sold out their business and Pallant's clothing store had a shoe store branch there for a few months. Then they moved all the stock into their one store further down Mill St.

In 1938 Eugene Braida rented the premises in March, 1938, with just a few pair of shoes and a lot of empty boxes! He made a quick trip to Toronto and brought back a car full, so he would have goods for his first customers. He began cautiously but the business thrived. He has an excellent memory which he draws on to tell stories of those years. His right hand girl for 14 years was his daughter Rena, now Mrs. Ray Arbie, and on

weekends others helped out.

Mr. Braida had worked in the tannery before starting in business at the age of 50. There was always competition, but he stuck to quality shoes and was successful.

When he reminisced this week with Bill Benson, the

## License deadline set for Thursday 6 p.m.

Four thousand gone and 1600 to go is the latest report from the Acton automobile license bureau.



MUSH! Off goes Peter Arbie on the high school Outers weekend hike and campout. More pictures and story inside.

two men discovered they had each started into the shoe business at the age of 50. The Swetmans aren't saying, "It's under fifty," is all they're going to admit!

Reg Adams, Milton and Marie Lawson, Acton will remain as experienced assistants.

## License deadline set for Thursday 6 p.m.

Ed Watson, bureau manager, says that sticker sales are way behind. Officials feel that new plates of other years were constant reminders, but stickers everyone forgets.

"Don't bother to fill out your ownership but bring it in," says Mr. Watson who reminds everyone that Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. is the deadline date.

Customers to the local bureau have come from Burlington, Toronto, Kitchener, Dundas, Milton, Hamilton, Oakville, and Guelph. "They just want to avoid line-ups," says the bureau manager. He said Georgetown required another 2,500 stickers and Acton 1,500.

A temporary run-out of transfers in the Georgetown license bureau also brought in extra purchasers to the Acton office for two days this past week.

## Bouclair recovers

Doing well and can't wait to get home is the latest report on John Bouclair of 332 Peel St., driver of a truck crumpled by a CNR train last Feb. 15.

Orval Chapman, manager of the A.P. Green Refractories (Canada) Ltd. where Mr. Bouclair is employed, says he looks great and is recuperating very quickly.

# Georgetown pool pick of projects lively debate over who will pay

Georgetowners may have a chance to swim in a new pool long before they can play hockey in a new arena, or use a new theatre-hall.

The general administration committee of Halton Hills council, after a long debate voted to apply for all grants, federal, provincial and Community Centres grants, which would be applicable to a swimming pool.

They turned down a motion by Councillor Ric Morrow to apply to the OMB for capital authorization for all three projects, the arena, hall and swimming pool.

Councillor Dick Howitt said it was impossible to apply for financing when no-one knows the cost.

He said it was time to start

talking priorities and choose which recreational item would be first. "We could take all our reserves, and all the grants and apply them to the pool, then see where we stand." He said he could see no way of financing the four projects including the library at the same time.

Councillor Ric Morrow said Georgetown had not issued debentures for a number of years, and were in a healthy position in proceed with the project. "Nothing has changed," he commented.

He claimed they should apply to the OMB, "if they don't approve we know we'll have to cut one or more projects".

He emphasized the demand was there, and stated the

citizens had been waiting for years.

Both agreed. He said Georgetown council had worked hard to bring it to fruition before the end of the year.

Howitt said he never had questioned the need, but had always questioned the money. He pointed out even if the OMB approved the cost of the whole thing, there was no reason to go into debt to the full capacity.

Councillor Les Duby said there was no way he could justify a new library to people in Ward 1, when they had paid for seven years of the new library in Acton.

He advocated a local improvement basis where the

people who are benefiting pay the cost.

Chairman Roy Booth interjected. "That is parochialism".

"It is not," retorted Duby. "It's as obvious as hell to me that someone in Ward 1 cannot relate to an arena in Ward 4, and certainly not to a library they'll never use".

"What about the Acton pool," shot back Booth. "Nobody has asked anything from this council for the Acton pool," replied Duby.

Morrow said if Duby's logic was carried further, Ward 1 should pay the fire Chief's salary in Area 1, and a portion of the new recreation program coordinator's salary. "This way would

make a sham of the town of Halton Hills."

Howitt said it looked like it would come down to doing the projects on a piece-meal basis. "I can see the pool and the library may be possible".

Earlier the committee voted to help apply for grants for the Acton swimming pool, which is being sponsored by Acton Lions Club.

Recreation Director Doug Collison pointed out there would be greater grants available for the Acton pool if the town applied and tendered the project.

Howitt questioned the difference in cost between the Acton and Georgetown pools when both are being built in schools. "\$265,000 for Acton and \$465,000 for Georgetown

is a big difference", he commented.

The recreation director said he knew only a little about the Acton pool, but did know part of the existing school in Acton is to be used for change rooms and washrooms.

Duby said the Acton pool would not be a burden on the taxpayers since the Lions Club have undertaken to raise most of the money through various projects and public subscription.

Collison said there was \$70,000 in trust for the pool set aside by Acton and Esqueping council, and at least \$75,000 in grants.

Council will meet with Acton Lions club to discuss the matter further.

# The Acton Free Press

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TWENTY-SIX PAGES—FIFTEEN CENTS

## Want uniform plot price for graves in Halton Hills

The cost of cemetery plots in both Georgetown and Acton may rise if Halton Hills council accepts the views of the finance committee as expressed at a meeting Monday.

The committee also hopes to establish a uniform price for perpetual care plots in both the Greenwood and Fairview cemeteries. At present it is \$15 cheaper to be buried in Acton's Fairview than Georgetown's Greenwood but the committee suggested the new uniform price would have to be higher than either.

Cost of a perpetual care package and plot in Acton is \$50 for all who wished to be buried there. Georgetown rates are \$75 for residents and \$125 for non-residents. Sixty

per cent of the fee goes towards perpetual care.

Councillor Ern Sykes noted the Acton \$50 seemed low while town treasurer Lloyd Peterson said Greenwood cemetery in Georgetown would have gone in the hole this year if the present \$75 plot fee was not increased.

Costs have increased considerably, he said.

We should make application to increase the fees and survey the costs in other cemeteries in the Halton Region to see where we stand, said Sykes.

Need approval

It was noted that any increase in fees for cemetery plots would have to have ministerial approval, which could take a fair amount of time. The committee decided

to recommend council take a survey to establish a "realistic plot sale figure".

Treasurer Peterson also told the committee it was imperative a proposed by-law to establish rules and regulations and tariff or rates for use in the two cemeteries be passed because those who purchased plots in Georgetown were unable to have deeds issued until it was done. Some are complaining, he said.

Discussion also centred on selling plots in order so there would be less confusion in plotting maps of the cemetery. In the past people have been able to pick their plots at random from developed parts of the cemetery but it created a

patchwork effect which was confusing caretakers and plot selling.

Discussion was precipitated on cemeteries when the matter of sale of plots in the Acton cemetery was broached. Funeral director Bruce Shoemaker of Acton notified council he felt a fee of \$15 was the minimum needed to show plots to people interested in buying plots.

Mr. Shoemaker had been doing this in Acton since the inception of the region. It was noted it took considerable time and sometimes there was no sale. The committee made no decision on this aspect of the problem. In the past the clerk had been responsible for the duty in Acton.



NAMED OUTSTANDING member of Acton Junior Farmers for 1973, Sharon Henderson delightedly accepts her trophy at the club's banquet last Saturday night. After the banquet at Ebenezer church there was dancing at Brookville hall. Another picture and story inside.

## Authority thwarted

Attempts to form a Parking Authority for Halton Hills were thrown a curve when clerk-administrator Doug Pritchard notified council that a five man municipal parking authority was illegal.

The statutes insist that only three men may constitute the corporate body but five men were recommended for appointment to the authority—three from Georgetown and two from Acton.

Mr. Pritchard told council there was a possibility the law could be amended to meet this situation but it would take a long time.

In view of the situation where we have two urban communities 10 miles apart in the same municipality perhaps we could have two parking authorities, suggested acting finance committee chairman Harry Levy.

"There's got to be a way round it," said Councillor Russ Miller.

To suggestions that the Georgetown authority be retained Councillor Ern Sykes suggested they should also investigate the need for a parking authority in Acton. If there's a need there should be one representative from there on the authority, he said.

## Vacant seat at head table

Arrangements have already been made by the Chamber of Commerce for the annual Citizen of the Year dinner on Saturday, April 20. But who will be the honored guest?

That's what Chamber members don't know yet, and they're asking for help. Alan Eastwood is in charge of the committee arranging the event.

Although he hasn't lined up the Citizen of the Year yet, he has arranged for the music centre, the Generation Gap band, the Hon. George Kerr and M.P. Terry O'Connor.

Any suggestions for that undesignated seat at the head table?



SECOND HIGHEST award in Guiding, the all-round cord, was presented to Arlene Wilson at the Guide and Brownie Mother and Daughter banquet last week. She is a member of the Second Acton Guides. Halton Division commissioner Mrs. Doreen Melcombe, Georgetown, made the presentation as Mrs. Strongitharm watches proudly.

## Contact Centre request aid from Halton Hills

Two representatives of the Contact Centre in Georgetown requested the finance committee of Halton Hills council for financial assistance to keep the centre operating during 1974 at a meeting Monday.

Explaining the centre serves all North Halton, including Milton, L. Egerton and Albert Jarvis said they could get by on a \$200 a month budget, broken down into \$100 for cleaning, \$35 for telephone, \$30 for advertising and \$25 miscellaneous expenses.

Operating since November the contact centre has had 2,577 hours of volunteer work and received 242 phone calls. Broken down it represented 23 calls with family and marital problems, 98 calls from lonely people, those with personal crises, depression and suicidal tendencies, 17 from people with alcohol and drug-related problems. The remainder were of a miscellaneous nature.

Volunteers worked on four hour shifts except for the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift and also provided their own refreshments.

Mr. Egerton said the service relieved police of some nuisance calls and the Red Cross was using the contact centre telephone for after-hour emergencies.

No government grants are available to the centre because no one is paid and the two representatives suggested that if office space was available in the former Georgetown municipal offices it would save them \$100 a month. If two rooms were available they could also branch out into counselling.

Mr. Jarvis told the committee the centre acted primarily as a referral service, directing callers to professional and other help available to them. Some crank calls were received, but often the caller broke the ice with a specious problem and after talking related his real one.

Mr. Jarvis noted the centre received wide support, several coming from Acton to serve and one lady came all the way from Orangeville.

Volunteers had to undergo a training program before serving. Speakers were sent out when requested.

Mr. Jarvis said it was the feeling of the centre's officials that if Halton Hills took them under their financial wing this year it would give them time to investigate other sources of revenue.

Milton people were also interested in establishing a local phone number to connect with the centre, he said.

The group received \$400 from Georgetown council to assist them in getting established and to operate during the two final months of 1973 but further consideration had been left to Halton Hills.

The finance committee promised to look into the request for aid after interrogating the centre's representatives.

## Horse, dog, bitten rabies is confirmed

Rabies clinics throughout the district may be in time for some animals but two incidents in the Rockwood area have put a number of pets on the quarantine list, with families concerned as to outcome.

Confirmation has been received that a white Appaloosa mare, found bitten about the face on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Johnston, R.R. 2, Rockwood, on Feb. 11, has been infected by a rabid fox.

Another fox, found on the neighboring farm of Jim and Julie Thatcher, across from the Johnston property, was also found to be rabid. The fox was discovered with the Thatcher animals in their yard on Friday, Feb. 15. It was acting strangely, cowed, and had porcupine quills in its face.

Mr. Thatcher shot the fox and contacted the Health of Animals Branch of Halton County in Brampton, for instructions. The head of the fox was sent to the federal lab at Hull, Quebec, for examination.

Confirmed On Monday afternoon, confirmation was received. The fox had rabies and all animals on the Thatcher farm are under quarantine. Toma, the family's newly acquired German Shepherd, was the only animal who seemed to have been bitten. He was found with several scratches and a bleeding face. For this reason it is necessary that the six-month-old dog be completely isolated and is being kept in the barn.

Mrs. Thatcher said they've had Toma since October. All the animals, cats, their dog,

and a pony, were inoculated immediately after the incident occurred.

Regulations decree that biting animals, such as dogs, cats, etc. bitten by a rabid creature, have to be quarantined for a six month incubation period. The German Shepherd is being kept away from the other animals but under observation.

The Thatchers also own two race horses which, fortunately, are being boarded in Orangeville.

Dr. Lloyd Mollison of the Health of Animals Branch of Wellington county said that non-biting animals such as pigs, horses, etc. have a shorter period of incubation and rabies symptoms show up sooner, sometimes within four to six weeks.

## Most dogs are friendly here

Things are going to the dogs in the former town office these days, where Mrs. Lorna Clarke and Ron McKnight are filling out the new forms required for dog licenses.

The simple form and lower fee of yesteryear are out along with local government. Halton Hills dogs have new forms, new prices and new tags.

Instead of designating the local canines' home as Acton,

the new tags say Halton Hills.

Forms now seek the dog's name, age, breed and disposition.

Most of those who have bought dog tags so far chose the same description for their dog's nature: "friendly". Several stated frankly their animals were "watchdogs". One had to admit the family pet was "grumpy".

Fee has increased from \$3 to \$5.