

# From racing vroom to housing boom



**NEW chairman of Sheridan College board of governors is Bert Hinton of Acton.**

## H. Hinton new head of board

H. H. "Bert" Hinton, former reeve of Acton and Halton warden, was elected as chairman of the board of governors of Sheridan College at their first meeting of 1975 Wednesday evening of last week. He promised a change in attitude in accountability to the students and the community, and an "adventurous new period."

He is a charter member of the Sheridan board and this is his eighth term. He is appointed by the county of Halton.

He beat out last year's vice-chairman Archie Turner of Mississauga in a secret vote. He replaces past chairman John Hanson of Mississauga, who has completed the maximum eight years allowed for his appointment by the governing Council of Regents.

Vice-chairman is Bill Cooke, a Brampton lawyer. Dr. Carl Martin of Milton was one of four who withdrew from this nomination.

Three new members, appointed by the Council of Regents.

For the first time, the alumni is represented on the 12-man board. The first graduate to be appointed is Janice Johnston, 23, of Georgetown, who graduated from Sheridan's advertising course in 1972. She is advertising copywriter for The Canadian Champion, Milton. Her parents are Councillor Len Cox and Mrs. Cox of Esquesing.

"I think the role of the community college has changed noticeably since 1970 - the year in which I enrolled," Mrs. Johnson comments.

"Now is the time, I feel, that boards of governors of colleges need an alumni representative - not for the purpose of radical change - but to have a competent representative who had experienced the college influences first hand."

Mr. Hinton was particularly pleased to have the alumni represented.

Two other new members appointed are Audrey Byckman, Burlington, a past member of the board of education and Burlington election candidate and Don Carlson, Oakville, past vice-president of public affairs for Ford of Oakville. They replace John Ronson, Dr. John Bell and J. W. Ostler. "It is a great honor and satisfaction to be elected" (Continued on Page 2)

The controversial dragstrip that drew packed houses at Esquesing council for months, will be replaced by 49 estate homes, on two and half acre lots.

Halton Hills planning board gave approval in principle to the plan submitted by Medallion Aire Estates, covering the 145 acre site on the Sixth Line north of Highway Seven, the present site of Toronto International Dragway. Council has yet to endorse the plan.

In the plan the existing control tower, with a few alterations becomes a change room and club house for tennis courts which would be built on part of the present asphalt surface. The bleachers would be preserved for a ball diamond or soccer field in the 18.5 acres of parkland.

Landscape architect Jerry Englar in a slide presentation showed an imaginative plan preserving the rugged natural features of the landscape, with the houses oriented to preserve privacy and overlook natural open space.

Part of the existing track would form a loop and cul-de-sacs off it. None of the houses front on either the Sixth or Fifth Lines.

Walter Sopinka, solicitor for Medallion Aire Estates, said the number of lots had been reduced from the original 70, which council had indicated was too many, to 49, and pointed out the principals

in both the development company and Toronto International dragway, Tom Reed and Bob Cooper, needed an indication of council's views to know whether to plan for the summer's operation of the dragstrip.

He said the lots are now all in excess of two acres with the average size 2.3 acres. Some are three acres.

Mr. Sopinka said this latest plan had been prepared by Clipham and Moreton, consulting engineers, after discussions with planner Mario Venditti.

Mr. Englar pointed out there few alternative uses for the dragway, claiming it would be difficult to return it to agricultural use, and the

abandonment of the strip would probably lead to its illegal use by people wanting to try out their cars. "If it continues as a dragway, the problems of traffic and policing will continue."

"It's a lot better plan than the last one," commented Mayor Tom Hill.

Councillor Dick Howitt termed it "an exciting plan," and praised the open rugged space in the landscape architect's concept. He wondered if the landscaping could be tied into the agreement.

"If the houses are simply put there, and left the owners, might not do all these things or do them badly," said Howitt.

Mr. Englar said the homeowner should have the right to choose whom he wants to do it. "We have shown what we think should be done," he pointed out he would prefer, if he owned an estate lot, to have only a small portion maintained in lawns, and the rest left in forest or pasture.

Councillor Ern Hyde said at least 500 trees are shown in the plan, and wondered if there was a way to guarantee at least 350 would be planted.

Mr. Englar said the more remote areas of the lots could be reforested, but for the whole area it could only be worked out over a period of time.

Councillor Pat McKenzie raised the question of water supply, pointing out the Reg-

ion frowns on communal water systems. "If the Region accepts communal water systems and they never dry up, they'd have to provide water, in this case probably by cost," he added.

Councillor Ern Hyde contended a communal system would be better than 49 individual wells, particularly for fire protection.

Mr. Sopinka explained there was a large cistern under the water tower, which had been filled before each race, and provided enough water for 6500 people. He said the pumps could be filled from there.

Mayor Tom Hill dismissed a question regarding garbage

collection, saying, "They'd do the same as the rest of the township - everybody looks after it themselves."

In answer to a question by Councillor Roy Booth on the nearness to schools. The mayor said the school bus comes right down the road.

Councillor Ern Hyde challenged the passing of a motion right then. He said he "didn't like people breathing down his neck," and claimed the applicants shouldn't be there when the discussion was carried on.

He said it seemed a healthy plan and commended the reduction from 70 to 49 lots, but claimed it hadn't been discussed. "Do we want a community there at all? How many

little communities do we want?"

He emphasized he wasn't opposed to the project but repeated "I don't want to be under the gun."

The planning board then voted to go "in camera" to finish the discussion.

When the doors were opened to public and press, they were told a motion approving the project on the dragstrip site had been approved in principle subject to a favorable report from the planner and department heads.

Three liquor seizures and one impaired driver were reported by the police this week.

# The Acton Free Press

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## Propose five stores at Elizabeth, Main

Five neighborhood stores with two apartments above them at the corner of Elizabeth Drive and Main Street North in Acton, were proposed to Halton Hills planning board, Tuesday night, by Mike Brodigan of Windland Associates.

He said his client was willing to pay the cost of re-aligning the road which now swings to the left. He said he

would like the existing commercial zoning extended to allow the building.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said a similar neighborhood development across the road had been turned down.

Councillor Les Duby said the existing house next to the present store would have to be moved. He said the lot is certainly a commercial lot at present.

Councillor Dick Howitt asked how the piece of land became commercially zoned.

Councillor Joe Hurst said before the zoning by-law and the small piece of land beside it was included in the commercial zone.

Councillor Ern Hyde asked if C1 zoning allowed apartments above stores. He was told it did.

In reply to another question, Mr. Brodigan said the lot is almost half an acre, and would provide parking for 32 cars.

Councillor Roy Booth said he was not convinced that many parking spaces could be accommodated in that space.

Planning board decided to refer the matter to the planner

## Recreation Board

# Four appointed five more apply

Four members were appointed to Ward one and two (Acton) Recreation Advisory Committee Monday night, and five more names, all from the Acton and Esquesing area, will be considered by administration committee.

Appointed were Brendan Aherne, 51 Meadvale Road; Peter Papillon, 76 Elmore Dr.; Mrs. D. Spielvogel, 88 Bower Ave.; and E. G. Wood, 208 Elmore Dr., all of Acton.

Two other names of members on last year's committee mention at the

administration committee and three brand new applicants, two from the former Esquesing area, will be considered.

Mayor Tom Hill pointed out the new applicants must be considered since two people who had not earlier applied in writing, but had by this meeting, been considered.

Councillor Les Duby pointed out there had been seven members on the previous committee, based on the number on the former Parks and Recreation board,

but reminded council no definite number had been set for this board.

Councillor Len Cox agreed saying he hoped no one would be cut off, and said he could see no reason there could not be nine on the board. "I'm pleased to see names from the rural area there."

Three Georgetown residents who had applied to be on the Acton-Esquesing area board were appointed to the Georgetown board. Council decided they should serve where they live.

## Man found

On Tuesday of last week an out-of-town man was found wandering on the street. Police discovered he had come from a psychiatric ward in Hamilton and he was returned.

## Scouts are first

The first Acton Scout troop came in first in the North Halton District Winter Scout Camporee near Orangeville on the weekend.

The Scouts were just one group out of eight which participated in the meet which included 91 scouts and 22 leaders.

Snow and cold winds did not hamper the boys in their efforts to win the events which earned them the 1975 North Halton District winter camp trophy and the Excelsior award. They also won first prize at the 1974 summer camp.

For further details on the Scouts' weekend, turn to the Youth Page.

## Negotiate

Beardmore union contract expired Jan. 17, and negotiations are continuing. Another meeting is planned for today (Wednesday) to discuss the new contract.

## Switch blows causes fire

Acton firefighters extinguished a fire at the Building Products plant, on Main St. N., about 9:30 this morning (Wednesday) during the ice storm.

The main switch to the PVC department blew up, sending flames and acrid smoke shooting up. It was put out using dry chemicals. Firefighters had to use Scott air packs to work in the acrid smoke.

No report of damage was available at press time.

## Lake ice dangerous

Neighbors in the vicinity of Fairy Lake would like others to know the ice on the lake is very thin this week. It's almost spongy in spots, the way it is in springtime. The police passed on the warning Tuesday afternoon



A HEAD-ON COLLISION occurred Saturday when an automobile driven by Thomas Thompson of R.R. 5, Rockwood collided with the car driven by Neil Abbott of Acton. Time of the accident was 3.45 p.m. The Thompson vehicle

was proceeding west, the Abbott car was travelling east. Damage to both cars was estimated at \$1,000. It took the Rockwood-Eramosa firefighters three-quarters of an hour to get the victims from their car.

## Head-on crash injures three

It took the Rockwood-Eramosa fire brigade three-quarters of an hour on Saturday afternoon, to pry accident victims from their car after a head-on collision on Highway 7, just outside Rockwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Abbott of 121 Church St., Acton were proceeding eastbound towards Rockwood when their '67 Rambler was in collision with a '71 Ford owned and operated by Tommy Thompson of R.R. 5, Rockwood, heading west.

After the collision the Thompson vehicle swerved into the ditch on the right side and the Rambler swung onto the shoulder on the opposite side of the highway.

Guelph OPP were summoned to the scene of the accident about 3.35 p.m.

Trapped A passing motorist notified the fire brigade and the siren sounded about 3.40 p.m. Fire chief Carl Meadows reports that Mrs. Abbott was found lying on the floor of the automobile and that it had to

be cut apart in order to release her husband, trapped behind the wheel. Mrs. Abbott was taken by ambulance to Guelph General hospital while the firemen were attempting to release her husband.

A second ambulance took him to the same hospital. Both were admitted to intensive care, suffering fractures, multiple lacerations and abrasions. They required emergency surgery as Mr. Abbott received injuries to both knees and a fractured

leg; his wife's knee was injured.

Mr. Thompson was treated for facial lacerations and released.

On Monday following the accident, the hospital reported that both victims were progressing favorably. Mrs. Abbott had been released from intensive care.

Damage to the vehicles involved was estimated at \$1,000 each. Condition of the road at the time of the accident was slushy, according to the Guelph OPP.



FIRST TWO books withdrawn from Limehouse community branch library were made symbolic. First two members in the record book and the first to take out books on the first day are long-time resident Mrs. Jessie Noble, 83, and kindergarten student Joanne Jennings. Chief librarian for Halton Hills Betsy Cornwell addressed Saturday's crowd while Limehouse librarian for public hours Anne Irvine (right) watches.



AFTER BEING ELECTED to head Acton Agricultural Society for 1975, the top four on the executive paid up their annual dues. Secretary-treasurer John Rowe takes the necessary \$2

from (left to right) second vice-president Brent Marshall; first vice-president Russell Murray and president Ken Murray. The meeting was last Wednesday.

# \$30,000 bill for experts?

Halton Hills could be in for a bill up to \$30,000 in fees for experts at future Ontario Municipal Board hearings, Councillor Ern Hyde disclosed Monday night, after a meeting behind closed doors.

The "in camera" session with town solicitors Fred Helson and Ray Steele, concluded with a motion asking the solicitors to proceed with the defence of Halton Hills planning policies at OMB

hearings March 10, subject to the outcome of preliminary hearings February 3.

Hyde said they were only involved with a few hundred dollars up to the February 3 hearing, and would not go along with the further expenditure to the March 10 hearing at this time.

He said he was not prepared to "go, whole hog" to the second step, and contended the passing of the motion gave the solicitors the go

ahead with a \$30,000 expenditure.

"Why did we discuss all this in camera, if we're going to discuss it now out in the open?" asked Councillor Mike Armstrong.

"We went in camera to discuss tactics not to hide the fact we may be faced with a cost of \$30,000," retorted Hyde.

Councillors Morrow, Hyde and Levy opposed the motion.