

# Open letter to Acton from retail merchants

Delegates of the Chamber of Commerce will be meeting with Halton Hills council on January 26 concerning the upcoming reconstruction of Hill St.

A group of retail merchants got together Monday evening and drafted an Open Letter to the people of the town, asking their support and opinions. Here is the merchants' letter:

"This is a critical time for downtown Acton for two reasons:

"1) the apparent failure of a plaza to materialize on the east side of town.

"2) the planned reconstruction of Mill St. E. from Main to Wilbur. This reconstruction was placed in the 1969 capital budget of the former town of Acton. The Halton Hills council is ready to act on this in 1976.

**Mall proposed**

"We have the opportunity to express our views and either strive for the status quo or the creation of a mall effect in the downtown core. Status quo leaves us with parking on both sides, narrow sidewalks, congestion and hazardous walking and driving conditions.

"Creation of a mall effect would require re-routing of all truck traffic (preferably Wallace to help industrial park development), provision of off street parking, widening of sidewalks and sprucing up of existing buildings.

"The reconstruction phase would have an adverse effect on local business and we would have to keep this to a minimum. The engineering department has indicated willingness to consider merchant views on timing etc. Regardless, this would be temporary and would be compensated by a better looking street and more pleasurable shopping conditions for Acton residents.

"This is a golden opportunity to make the downtown core more presentable and a good place to shop or start a new business. We desperately need a fabric and drapery store, bathroom boutique, sports specialty shop. We could use more shoe stores, men's wear, jewellery etc. Fair competition would help us all and give Acton residents much more variety and value for their money.

"We have to be realistic in this time of restricted budgets. The merchants in Georgetown provided their own parking lots some years ago and it is highly unlikely that council will hand us parking lots on a silver platter. The best we can hope for is to get commitments from local merchants indicating their willingness to pay higher business taxes for a period of time. Halton Hills council might then co-operate with us and ensure that off street parking is the first phase in the reconstruction of Mill St. E.

"Please fill in the questionnaire and return it to: Family Pool Sales, Neilsen's Clothing or Swetman's Shoes as soon as possible.

"Delegates of the Chamber of Commerce will be meeting with council on January 26."

## Chamber of Commerce Questionnaire

1. Would you like to see a revitalized downtown section of Acton?

YES

NO

2. If yes, are you a merchant?

YES

NO

3. If yes to Question 2

Business Name:

Address:

Owner of Business:

Owner of property:

Would you be willing to pay higher business taxes to help pay for off-street parking?

4. If NO to Question 2

Are you a resident?

Do you shop in Acton?

COMMENTS:



THE REV. CHUCK Beaton had all his family present at his induction service at Trinity United church Sunday evening. Seated with him are his parents, Capt. and Mrs. Horace Beaton, Port Elgin. In the back row are daughter Kathryn, his wife Jean, daughter Miriam and son Mark.

## Rev. Charles Beaton inducted at Trinity

Trinity United church was almost filled for the induction of its new minister, the Rev. Charles Beaton, B.A., B.D., Sunday evening. A bus load of 50 people and three carloads drove through the snowstorm from his past church in Markham to be present for the ceremony. They joined the Acton congregation, visiting and local clergy, and took part in the joyful service.

The basement of the church was packed afterward when the Markham and Acton people met over coffee cake and cheese, coffee and tea. The rooms and hallways were jammed with happy people. Many of the guests arrived as a surprise to Mr. Beaton. Among them were his parents, Capt. and Mrs. Horace Beaton of Port Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Beaton, who met at the University of Waterloo, have three children, Mark, 16; Kathryn, 15 and Miriam, 13.

**Here before**

He was pastor of Churchill, Ballinafad and Melville churches in 1960, 1961 and 1962 before graduation. The Rev. Dwight Engel would take his communion services in those years, and Mr. Beaton would preach sometimes at Trinity United.

After graduation he was at Uranium City, Sask., Edmonton, Alta. and St. Andrew's, Markham. For the past year and a half he has not been a clergyman but a real estate salesman. During this period he has been an active lay person in Markham, leading a group and singing in the choir.

He has now decided to return to the ministry.

**Service**

The induction service was conducted by the Rev. Anna Taylor of the Orton charge, who is chairman of induction for the Dufferin and Peel

Presbytery and also was the supervising pastor of the Acton congregation until a new minister was engaged.

The Rev. Don Stiles of St. Andrew's, Georgetown and Ballinafad church, read the lessons and preached the sermon. The Rev. Gerry Day, chairman of the Presbytery, conducted the formal induction service, after the Rev. Beaton was formally inducted to the front of the church by Ross Knechtel, chairman of the pastoral relations committee of the church.

The Rev. Francis Cook, Inglewood, chairman of pastoral relations for the Presbytery; the Rev. A. H. McKenzie of Knox Presbyterian church; and a former minister of both Trinity and Churchill, the Rev. W.A. Forsbury, attended.

Mr. Beaton began his ministry at the morning service Sunday.

The family will move here at the end of the school year. Mrs. Beaton is a teacher.

There were apparently no in town traffic accidents Tuesday night-Wednesday morning due to the heavy snowfall, a regional police spokesman said.

## Strikes posts

An Acton resident lost control of his car at lunch time Saturday on Highway 25 and hit two guardposts near Speyside.

Police said the driver was not hurt.

**H.S. HOLDEN**

OPTOMETRIST  
34 Cork St. East  
GUELPH  
Phone 822-7150

## ACTON CHAMBER of COMMERCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, January 19

at the

Band Hall

• DINNER MEETING •

\$6.00 per person

\* GUEST SPEAKER \*

Julian Reed, M.P.P.

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## Nervous birds shy from friend

Present trapping at some of the ducks has made the rest of the birds terrified of close contact with humans now.

When Esther Taylor made her regular trip to the lake to feed the birds Tuesday, they scattered in fear. Usually they flock around her and seem to hold a delightful meal-time conversation.

Even the fluttering of the plastic bag containing food produced more unusual fright and flight.

Obviously distressed, Esther looked around for some

of her favorites. Some were there, some missing.

She feeds the birds regularly, as do other neighbours, upping their own amount of feed when the town men have not been feeding. The best solutions to the problem evade her, too. But she thinks the birds would starve or freeze to death if transported to Lake Ontario. Domestic geese which were particular "pets" of hers were ordered off the lake last year by the Department of Natural Resources.

## 35 cent admission to pools, arenas

Admission charges at swimming pools and arenas in Halton Hills will be

changed to a straight 35 cents for everybody, and a \$1.25 charge for a family of four or more, if council approves an administration committee recommendation.

At present the fee is 25 cents for children under 12, 35 cents for students 13 to 18, 50 cents for adults, and \$1.25 for a family of four at the pools. At the arenas the fees are the same except for the family charge which is \$1.

The across the board 35 cents fee will make book-keeping easier and do away with checking age of children and students said Glen Gray, Recreation Director.

The Canada Fair Show is scheduled to be held at the Toronto Coliseum Jan 27

## Still seeking answer to Fairy Lake birds

With no long range solution to the birds on Fairy Lake, who have it so good they refuse to migrate, Councillor Les Duby again brought the subject up at Halton Hills administration committee.

He pointed out they are there, and someone has to feed them, and either keep the water open so they won't freeze or house them over the winter season.

At a December meeting council voted \$1,200 to feed them, but Duby claimed the responsibility for actually feeding them has not been established.

Mayor Tom Hill contended it is the Credit Valley Conservation Authority responsibility. He said they have employees feeding geese at the Orangeville dam.

Duby said a great number of people who cannot participate in other forms of recreation, enjoy the birds and the walk on the lake front.

Facility superintendent Pat Sheehan said he wanted to know whether the Acton arena maintenance manager

Harold Townsley was an arena manager, or a game warden. "He shouldn't be both," he said.

Duby said he realized it was an imposition on the arena manager, but pointed out he had been involved in bird feeding in the town of Acton. "There's been too much discussion but nothing gets done," he said the birds can't wait until the CVCA makes a decision. He says they will freeze. He said a frozen swan had been found the other morning.

Mayor Tom Hill said a solution has to be found. "Are we going to have an arena manager digging holes in the ice for the birds, and then maybe have kids fall in?" He said birds have been fed for years and will not migrate.

Councillor Ric Morrow said the town will have to feed the birds for now, but the Ministry of Natural Resources should be asked to remove the wild birds. He bet the swans would have to be fed.

Duby said the Ministry of Natural Resources had been called in before and were of no help. He claimed parks are the town's responsibility. "You should see the birds flocking up on the shore waiting to be fed."

He suggested an agricultural building by the lake could be used to house them during the winter.

The committee finally recommended the works department feed the birds and keep the water open or house them, if possible.

"I'd like to get this damned problem solved," remarked Duby.

### DANCING

Every Saturday  
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
at the  
Acton Legion

JAN. 17 -  
COUNTRY PEDAGOGUES

Jan. 21 Entertainment in Lounge  
2 Shaynes  
3 Guardsmen  
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