

Merchants retain Mill parking



Acton business district on Mill street can become congested at times.

Mill Street reconstruction will go ahead as planned this year and downtown Acton businessmen won't lose over 60 valuable parking spots, Halton Hills council decided Monday.

Acton Chamber of Commerce official Paul Nielsen told council:

"The Acton Chamber of Commerce, Retail Section, has in written and oral form conveyed to the Works Committee of Halton Hills and on two occasions to the Planning Committee and in letters to the Council the following:

"1. In addition to the present available parking in the Central Business District, there now is a need for off the street parking.

"2. A truck route should be established to relieve congestion on Mill and Main Streets.

"3. That further loss of parking in the Central Business District would cause

grave inconvenience to shoppers and loss of revenue to merchants.

"4. That all of these conditions would continue and increase as the town increases in size."

It is unfortunate that in spite of advertisements in regard to the public meetings, only the councillors from Ward One and the planner Mario Vendetti were able to attend one of these meetings. However through the representation made every member of Council should be aware that except perhaps for one, the entire downtown business section do not go along with the concept that one foot additional width of sidewalk each side, will add one foot to the business life of the town, nor do they agree that deleting parking on the south side will help anyone, be it business person or shopper in the area of Acton.

To the detriment of retail businesses in Acton, 36 park-

ing spaces have been lost during the past year, more if St. Alban's Drive changes are taken into consideration. Many people have expressed the feeling this will have the effect that business is being directed towards the plazas in Georgetown.

United

"The business community is all but totally united in its opposition to the proposed changes and 41 out of 52 businesses have signed a petition asking Council to increase their taxes twenty mills on commercial and business assessment, approximately an 18 per cent increase to be used exclusively for off the street parking. Among those signing, many already have parking of their own. Those who have declined signing generally feel they are already overtaxed for value received and feel that portions of the over \$90,000 per year which the area at present is paying in

commercial and business tax should be used to alleviate the problem.

"To the Planning Department, it may be an interesting academic question if, in the future, some benefit for some people may be derived from the proposed changes but to the people of Acton, it is at the least a question of convenience and to some a question of bread and butter.

"And to Council, this question: What are you going to do with the scores of cars which are presently using the south side of Mill Street for parking?"

"The Works Committee has totally disregarded the letters submitted by councillors Duby and McKenzie. They have equally disregarded representation made by the Retail Section of The Chamber of Commerce.

Ignored

"They have paid no attention to letters from The Halton Hills Parking Author-

ity and only Ward One councillors have attended one of the public meetings in regard to this matter. We wonder if the Committee has recently taken a look at the full parking lots and the jammed parking spaces everywhere in the Central Business District?"

"This Council must be aware that the Central Business District has functioned and served the town for more than one hundred years. To interfere in the manner suggested could be a knock-out punch depriving the citizens of Services and the town of a large asset.

"How would you feel if government suddenly removed a large portion of parking at your office, or at the airport? Without giving alternatives?"

And how do you think the people of Acton will feel when they no longer can park on what they think is their

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Elizabeth Dr. proposal 'best plan yet' — Duby

Elizabeth Drive, Acton may have senior citizens apartments on the north side, four stores with two apartments above on the corner, and seven semi-detached houses on the south side, if a plan proposed to Halton Hills Planning Board by Mike Brodigan of Windland Associates is accepted. In addition, 2.6 acres of land abutting the lake would be deeded to the town.

Mr. Brodigan recalled Acton council had originally recommended the area all be park land but negotiations with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority fell through.

He explained the seven semi-detached homes would mean 14 units, with one single family home at the end. He said the realignment of the curve on Elizabeth Drive would mean four stores and

two apartments could be accommodated at the Main Street corner.

Mr. Brodigan pointed out the realignment of the curve had been asked for by Acton Council.

Councillor Roy Booth suggested the road could become a dragstrip, if straightened.

"I'd say it is more hazardous the way it is since vision is restricted," replied Mr.

Brodigan. He said he understood there would be a stop sign at Main Street.

Booth said the increased size of the commercial area could cut into existing businesses in the area.

Mr. Brodigan said Ontario Housing Corporation indicated the increase would be warranted by the building of senior citizens apartments, along the street.

Booth asked if he would agree to restricting the type of businesses to stated types.

Mr. Brodigan said he felt his client would agree since it would make more sense economically.

Councillor Les Duby said this plan was a great improvement over any past proposals. He asked if the agreement with O.H.C. was definite.

Mr. Brodigan said he had a letter saying "they were amenable to the use."

Planning board referred the proposal to the planning department for a report.

The Acton Free Press

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1976
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March in like lion worst snowstorm yet

A lion-like roar introduced March to this district Monday, giving promise of lamb-like weather in another 31 days.

Snow began falling Monday evening and before long there was a horrible winter melange of snow, sleet, rain, thunder and lightning.

Works department head Frank Morette thought the storm was the worst of the winter and many drivers agreed with him. The snow and sleet fell into a seven-inch deep gumbo. Motorists say it was like trying to drive through sand.

The fact that the frost is out of the ground made coping worse, Mr. Morette said.

Work through

His night shift began salting, sanding and plowing about 11 p.m. Monday and crews worked all through Tuesday. By late Tuesday afternoon all routes had been covered by Halton Hills workers and equipment. Only a few cars were stuck along the roads but they didn't impede plowing much.

His department didn't receive any more calls for plowing than usual.

The police in Acton report

no unusual incidents and no accidents in the district.

The OPP who patrol the highway had a different story. There were all sorts of accidents on Highway 401, they report, most of the fender-bender type. The highway improved gradually as the day went on.

Highways 25 and 7 were open but slippery.

School buses were cancelled Tuesday morning, for the third time this year.

Some people didn't even attempt to get to work or school yesterday morning. They took a look outside and stayed home.

Police charge four in rash of break-ins

Last weekend a series of charges was laid by the police, culminating the investi-

gation of a recent rash of break-ins in town and district. The people charged will ap-

pear in court soon.

A man with no fixed address was charged with eight counts of breaking and entering. The break-ins, over a period of about three weeks, had been reported at Little Motors, Olympia Drive-In restaurant, Ace Carpet service, Toth Shell service station, L and L Ford and at two private houses.

Arena, schools

A young Acton man and a young Rockwood man were charged with two break-ins at Acton arena, break-ins at Linthouse and Stewarttown schools. They come to court next week.

A young Acton man was charged with breaking and entering at the Dominion Hotel and L and L Ford. All charges were dated February 28 and 29 in the police records.

\$4,000 for Y Centre is on agenda today

Halton Regional council is approving grants today (Wednesday). Among them is the recommendation from the administration committee for \$4,000 for the new Community Services Centre in Acton Y.

The board of directors of the centre met again last Thursday to make plans for the official opening, in expectation of their grant being approved.



SAULT STE. MARIE peewee captain Scott Kelland accepts a trophy from tournament chairman Allan Hall for winning the grand champion title on Sunday at the annual peewee tournament. They squeezed through with a score of 3-2 over Orangeville. Story and more pictures on the sports page.

\$300 in damages

A bed and rug were destroyed in a blaze, Sunday morning at the home of Richard Jones, 14 Kingham Hill.

Acton Volunteer Firefighters were called to the scene at 9:30 a.m. The bed and mattress were carried from the house to the front lawn by firefighters where they were quickly doused.

Fire chief Mick Holmes estimated damage at \$300 to the rug, bed and blackened bedroom walls.

Two children, ages four and three, were taken to a neighbor's during the fire.

It was the second time in a week the volunteers had been summoned to that area. The Sunday before they were called to a car fire but it had been put out before they got there.

Mr. Holmes said at no time was there any danger of the fire spreading to the other units in the townhouse. He explained there is a thick fire wall from the basement to the roof between the houses.

Clinic dates

Upcoming blood donor clinic dates in Acton are Monday, June 28 and Tuesday, October 26. It's a Red Cross project... and the campaign for funds is now underway.

Want canvass for Red Cross

Canvassers are desperately needed if a house to house campaign is to be carried out by the Red Cross in Acton during March. Traditionally, March is Red Cross month but to date not a single Acton resident has volunteered to assist with this worthy cause.

According to Halton Hills Red Cross public relations officer, Mrs. Connie Nieuwhof, Georgetown, every householder in the area has received a folder listing Red Cross services available to local residents along with the requisite telephone numbers. In return, householders are being asked to send their campaign donations to P.O. Box 106, Georgetown.

If the goal of Acton is not reached Mrs. Nieuwhof says that it may be necessary for Georgetown residents to come to Acton to run a door-to-door canvass.

Recent attempts have been made to form a branch in Acton. Convener is Henry Kroes, at 853-1868, and acting secretary Nellie Harbers at 853-9553. People willing to canvass could phone either one for information. About seven people have agreed to canvass so far, according to Mr. Kroes Tuesday.

Ducks damage property

Possible damage caused by the 300 odd ducks in the poultry building is causing concern to members of the Agricultural Society. A letter from the Society to Halton Hills council was referred Monday night to the works committee.

Cages had to be built for the birds, but the question of what to make them of is the issue.

At first, workmen used fencing from the Miss Acton Fair competition and the screening which covers the baking competition cages. A stop was put to that.

Now, say board members, wire has been stretched across sections of the Friday night show stage to make cages. The ground is wet and some of the sections of plywood are beginning to split and separate.

Apparently the fair board had originally suggested that wire be placed around the sheep pens but this was not done.

\$600 damage

An accident in the parking lot at Queen and Churchill involved two cars, driven by Geraldine McCallum, 181 Kingham, and Roy Murphy of Rockwood. One car struck the open door of another car, causing \$600 damage, police estimate. The collision was Sunday.

Taxes up \$135

No one knows how much taxes will go up this year in Halton Hills yet but present regional and Halton Board of Education predictions would mean an average increase of \$135. This figure could climb even higher after Halton Hills strikes its budget.

Education is expected to add 12 mills to the tax bill and regional operations six mills.



OUTSTANDING MEMBER award was presented to Bev Leitch of the Acton Junior Farmers. The president and two previous winners chose Bev for her contribution to the club over the past year. Last year's winner, Rick Britton, was on hand at the annual banquet and dance to present Bev with the trophy and plaque.

Equalized assessment would favor Acton

According to a financial statement prepared by Halton Regional Treasurer Don Farmer, Acton would be the key beneficiary in a switch from the chargeback system to the equalized assessment method as a means of financing sewer work in the region.

Basically the difference between the two systems of financing the work is the chargeback system assesses the cost of each project to the benefiting municipality while under equalized assessment, municipalities

are charged according to their assessment base or their ability to pay.

Considering debt charges for sewers incurred thus far, Acton's rate would drop by 1.29 mills. Burlington's rate is the only other one that would drop, but by 1.08 mills.

Large saving

If the 1975 sewer budget was passed as it stands Acton's mill rate would drop by 4.15 mills.

Georgetown would realize a decrease of 2.37 mills. Burlington a decrease of .56

mills and Milton a decrease of 1.08 mills.

In each of three comparisons Oakville's mill rate shows an increase. Because Oakville has the most favorable assessment base that community would have to consistently pay for more than the work done in that municipality.

Projections indicate that in 1980 Acton, Milton and Burlington would benefit from the scheme to the financial detriment of Georgetown and Oakville.

Milton benefits

Initially there would be increased costs in Milton but over a long run the town would benefit from the scheme, according to the report.

Acton and Burlington are the only two urban areas that benefit in all three comparisons offered. Oakville is the only area consistently on the short end of the stick.

Each reference to mills refers to commercial and industrial mills. Residential and farm mill rates are about 15 per cent less than the figures in the report.

Because it deals with only sewer work, the rural areas of the region are not involved. Rural residents do not pay any share of sewer programs.

Town approves tennis set-up

Halton Hills council accepted the recommendation setting up four tennis clubs in town, under one association, and praised the committee's report.

Councillor Ern Hyde contended there should be one uniform fee for all clubs, and asked why Acton and Gordon Alcott court fees were twice as high as Moore Park and Joseph Gibbons.

Councillor Les Duby pointed out other municipalities have much higher fees than the \$8 for a family, \$4 for an adult and \$2.50 for juniors at the court clubs, and the \$15 a family and \$9 an adult at the other two clubs.

Councillor George Maltby said the facilities were different with Acton having three courts, and Gordon Alcott four, while the other two locations have only two.

Hyde said he was not suggesting the fees were too high. He said he thought the lower fees should be raised to the same level as the higher ones. He said he did not want to make an issue out of it, but said he felt the rates should be the same.

Councillor Harry Levy said that was the long range intent.

Table tennis new program of Y board

The program committee of the Murray Memorial YMCA, Acton, chaired by Helen Van Sicker met at the Y Wednesday, February 25 at 8:30.

There was a good response with many new ideas tossed around.

The newest program initiated is a table tennis club spearheaded by Floyd Foster and Neil Abbott. This club is open to anyone interested in table tennis. A Y membership is mandatory plus a small nominal fee each day attended.

Leap Year birthday

Would you believe there's a precocious ten year old on Halton Hills council? There is.

It is Councillor Dick Howitt who has his birthday on February 29. Since he is a Leap Year baby his birthday only comes around every four years.

Tender sewage plant this fall

A progress report on the addition to the Acton Pollution Control Plant indicates tenders for the addition will be let in November.

Completion of the plant is scheduled for late 1977. R. V. Anderson Associates, Consulting Engineers, allow a year for construction.

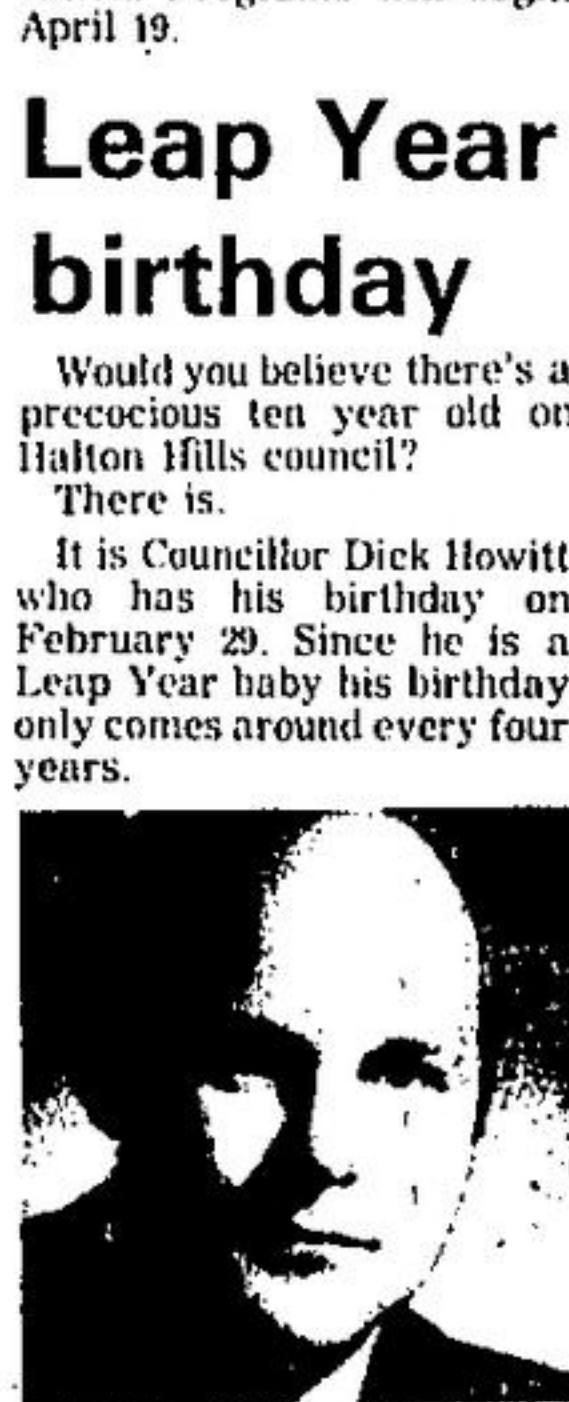
The progress report indicates a meeting with the consultants and regional public works officials will be held to discuss the possibility of handling effluent from Beardmore Tannery.

Officials from the firm made several appearances at both council and committee meetings to lobby for permission to use the plant.

Even though the company is the oldest and largest in the town, it has never been allowed to dump its treated tannery sewage into the town plant.

The plant will be enlarged by at least 350,000 gallons

10-year-old



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