

# Baron 'legally insane' two doctors testify

Two mental specialists agree that Horst Baron, who is charged with three counts of attempted murder, was legally insane at the time of the offence last October 27.

Dr. Jerry Cooper, a psychiatrist, and James Long who holds a doctorate degree in clinical psychology both testified that Mr. Baron, 50, suffered from a disease of the mind and could not distinguish between right and wrong at the time of the incident at the Baron farm, R. R. 2, Acton.

Mr. Baron is charged in connection with the shooting of his wife Hilda 58, Gunter Mayer 45, and Mr. Mayer's son Wayne, age 9.

The doctors were the final witnesses in the case which has heard testimony over four days. The jury heard final arguments today before going into seclusion to make its decision.

The doctors made several tests during two interviews with Mr. Baron at the Milton Gao and at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto. They formed tentative conclusions concerning Mr. Baron, which they changed after they heard his testimony yesterday and that of previous witnesses.

"The degree of mental illness I saw during the trial

is much more severe than when I saw him at Milton or St. Mike's," Dr. Long told the jury.

"Mr. Baron is of very superior intellectual ability with an I.Q. of 117," Dr. Long said. The doctor also told the jury that Mr. Baron's basic abilities range in the I.Q. of 136 which puts him in the top one per cent of the population.

After seeing him (Mr. Baron) today, my main concern is that this man was suffering from a psychosis at the time, that is out of touch with reality," Dr. Cooper said.

"As he (Mr. Baron) testified,

one could see the border line state was more pronounced", he said.

Mr. Baron was the first of the three witnesses for the defence. He was asked to explain the last line of a letter which he mailed to his son Manfred Baron in the Kingston Penitentiary seven weeks prior to the shooting incident.

"If I get bugged to much, Isaac might get company" the last sentence reads. The reference to Isaac was explained last week by Manfred Baron as "the man shot to death in my case."

The cases of Manfred Baron and Regina Wertman, convicted last year of conspiracy to commit murder, in connection with the shooting death of Mrs. Wertman's husband, Isaac, are under appeal.

Mr. Baron said he should have written the letter better, but he thought his son would understand. "She (Mrs. Baron) would get in trouble with the ghost of Isaac Wertman. We have the ghost in the house", Mr. Baron said.

Isaac Wertman's body was incinerated in a barrel on the Baron farm.

**Ammunition handy**  
The presence of four 12 gauge shotgun shells which police found taped underneath a living room table was explained by Mr. Baron in terms of fear for his life. "I knew of the Wertman case... I had ammunition handy just in case", he said.

Mr. Baron had told the court he had several guns on the wall in the living room for show.

Police searched the Baron residence the week following the incident and discovered five rifles, and two shotguns, not including several which were not assembled. Several pieces of fire-arms were found in three safes. Also in the safes and around the house were 377 12-gauge shotgun shells, 1,812 rounds of .22 calibre ammunition, 41 rounds of .38 calibre ammunition, 2,000 primer caps and several rounds of various other ammunition.

One of the shotguns belongs to Mr. Mayer. Manfred Baron said he also owned a shotgun in addition to a .22 calibre

revolver and a highpower semi-automatic rifle.

Mr. Baron appealed to the attorney-general to investigate his case. In a letter he mailed in February Mr. Baron claimed that the charges against him were totally ridiculous and said that this was a case of self defence.

"I gather you don't think you're to blame for this" (the shooting), Crown Attorney James Treveaven asked Mr. Baron yesterday.

"I don't think so", Mr. Baron replied.

**Precaution**  
Mr. Baron said he was carrying the .38 calibre revolver on the night of the shooting as a precaution. He had returned home from work, he said, and found some men and a truck in the farm yard. He said he did not know them, but that they wished to buy parts of a steel tower.

Mr. Baron placed his lunch pail in the house and picked up the revolver before going outside to help load the tower onto the truck.

Mr. Baron, whose calm be-

havior following the shooting, police described as unusual, said he blacked out in the kitchen. Mr. Baron told the jury he woke up to see his wife and Mr. Mayer looking at him. Both rushed out of the room. He said he did not see the boy Wayne until he started phoning the police.

Following the shooting, Mr. Baron said he put the revolver on the counter and went to the frig for a drink.

**Was dizzy**  
He told the jury that while his statements were being taken by police his head was turning and he was dizzy.

During the incident in the farm kitchen, Mr. Baron said he received a hit on the head. He said he did not see who struck him. Also that day he said he bumped his head on a wood plank at work.

Spring forward  
fall back!



SPRING FORWARD... fall back. Carolyn Duval is ready to change her clock Sunday morning when Daylight Saving Time returns. Don't forget!

# The Acton Free Press.

One Hundred and First Year—No. 43

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1976

Twenty-Eight Pages—Fifteen Cents.



APPLYING THE GLAZE to very hot, hot cross buns is Mildred Hefferman in Hotchen's Bakery on Willow Street South. Les Hotchen, who unloads yet another batch of the Easter cakes, baked over 100 dozen buns for his many customers.

## Set up volunteers meeting

How volunteers can become involved at the new Community Services Centre will be the topic at a meeting there Wednesday evening, May 5. Organizers who can reel off a list of possibilities say they'll "start slow" and make sure their programs are successful.

made by board members and as well the May 5 meeting is being advertised to contact anyone in the community who would be interested. The background of the new Centre in the Y will be given to those attending the meeting with a run-down of organization and finances.

who is in the Y each day, can answer any questions future volunteers may have. She says she will be glad to hear from anyone who would like to help, or who has good ideas for community uses of the centre.

Mrs. McLin arranges professional consultations in the meeting room in the Y and directs people with problems to the right source of help. In this work no volunteers are used since much of it is confidential, she says.

However there are other community needs which could be well met by volunteers and require no professionals at all.

For instance, people could arrange to phone and check on shut-ins and ill people who are alone. Friendly visits could be organized. Others could help with publicity for the centre and possibly fund raising. Discussion groups could be formed, perhaps on family life topics. Perhaps students who cannot find summer jobs could be organized into some volunteer work

## Car-truck crash five are injured

Fractures, cuts and bruises were received by the passengers of a truck driven by Peter Vlietstra, 210 Churchill Rd. N. after it was in collision with a telephone pole, Halton Regional Police say.

The accident occurred at 6.30 p.m. on April 17 after the Vlietstra vehicle swerved to avoid hitting a car driven by Russell Van Fleet, 43 Willow St. The incident happened on the First Line and 22 Sideroad.

Robin Speaker, 70 Roseford Terrace, complained of a sore left arm. Guy Payne, 52 Main St. N., received cuts and bruises. Hector Daigle, R.R. 1, Acton had fractures and Keith Crookin, 1 Cameron St. received fractures and bruises after the collision which left \$1000 in damages, police estimate.

## Small increase for taxpayers in budget

Without budget figures from either the Region or Halton Board of Education, Halton Hills' tax-bill will be up only an average \$9 a household based on an average \$6,500 assessment, council decided late last night (Tuesday).

The Acton taxpayer's bill would increase 1.48 mills.

Georgetown's mill rate for town purposes will increase by 1.21 mills.

Taxpayers in the former township of Esquesing can expect a tax

boost of 1.51 mills or \$10 on an average assessment.

Total budget for Halton Hills, without including the Region or Board of Education was set at \$4,500,245.

Taxpayers can expect further increases from the Board of Education and Halton Region, budgets which have not been finalized. Halton Hills' council decided to go ahead with the town budget to signify the only monetary issues they control.

## Better roads works' goal

Halton Hills works committee members got a much better idea of what they would like to see done with Wallace Street in the future Thursday when the councillors toured Acton.

Councillors Joe Hurst, Pat McKenzie, Mike Armstrong, Ern Hyde and Dick Howitt along with engineer Robert Austin and deputy engineer Ted Ballinger discussed various ideas concerning Wallace Street's future as a possible by-pass around Acton and will discuss the street further at the committee's next meeting.

Several committee members observed that with more gravel on the road it wouldn't be too much of a job to make Wallace Street at least passable through the industrial area.

**Subsidized**  
Noting that Queen's Park has approved the street as a possible by-pass and that it would be a provincially subsidized project

it was estimated that it would cost between \$100,000 and \$150,000 to make Wallace Street into a truck route.

The committee also discussed the fact some land might have to be acquired and the road would have to be widened to accommodate trucks.

While Wallace Street would be a by-pass it would have to be built to stand the stress of the dual role of truck route.

The committee members thought it would be a good idea to get right down to work on the planning of the project for the future before the province goes ahead with its plans for Main Street North.

**Elizabeth**  
The committee members inspected two curves on Elizabeth Drive which might have to be removed if the street is straightened to accommodate some commercial development. It was noted two

homes might have to be removed if the curves were to disappear.

Cameron Street was viewed to see if curbs and gutters are needed and if drainage problems can be solved.

It was noted the street is slated to receive a coat of asphalt and that the drainage problem is the same now as it always has been.

**Storm sewer**  
Storm sewer improvements on Mill Street are expected to solve some drainage problems on this street, it was pointed out, and if curbs and gutters were installed on Cameron Street then storm sewers would also be needed.

Sidewalks on Lake Avenue were inspected and the committee's initial reaction was that the situation wasn't as bad as they thought it was and that if anything was done the entire street's sidewalks would likely have to be replaced.

**Water**  
The problem of puddles forming in the driveway of Charles Heard, Church Street, was discussed after inspection and the committee thought the new sidewalk installed on the street could be lowered a couple of inches at Mr. Heard's home so the water would run down to the street. During winter, in the early spring and late fall when the puddles freeze it is difficult for Mr. Heard to get in and out of his driveway since the water lies there and can't get over the sidewalk.

The area of Mill Street, from Main to Wilbur Streets, which will be reconstructed this year was examined by the committee members.

In addition the committee spent some time during its annual spring tour of the town looking over the area of Churchill Road north where storm sewers will be built this year.

## Approve road pattern on former dragway

The road pattern for the 50 lot estate home development on the former dragway property Lot 29, Con. 6 was approved by Halton Hills Planning Board, Tuesday night.

The future use of the 16 acres of land originally slated for parkland will be decided after recommendations from the engineer and recreation director are made.

Planner Mario Venditti

explained he had recommended the Fifth and Sixth Line be paved from Highway 7 to the subdivision.

Planning Board recommended the 16 acres be reserved for recreational facilities, but decided not to specify exactly what was to be there at this time.

Murray Gruson of Lynecan Investments, owners of the dragstrip land, said it made

no difference to him what the decision was since he was not looking for more lots.

Councillor Irie Morrow said it would not hurt the developer to put in substantial facilities or substantial cash. "If we don't want to retain the land for recreational purposes we don't want to be responsible for it".

The planner said the original concept saw the five

and half acres of wooded wet land left in its natural state, and the remainder of the 16 acres in parkland.

Morrow claimed if the land was not to be used as active parkland, the town wouldn't want it. He suggested the recreation director draw up a plan of long term use.

Councillor Les Duby said the use of the 16 acres relates to the development. He said

he would be agreeable to setting the area aside, but pointed out the proposed new Acton high school would have track and field, and football space. "I can't see too many people travelling to the north end of the town for recreational facilities, but we should hold it for future use."

Mr. Gruson said he had always understood the developer would install recreation facilities and was prepared to do so. He said these items would be worked out in the subdivision agreement.

Councillor Russell Miller asked if the five acre wet area served a purpose.

Bob Cliphams, consultant for the development, said it drains the area to the creek.

## Committees asked to catalogue local facilities

The Acton and Georgetown Recreation Advisory Committees have been asked by the Halton Hills Planning Department to make an inventory catalogue of all facilities available to the town in their respective areas.

The committees met with the department in a joint meeting at the town offices on April 14 to discuss a new parks policy. Mario Venditti, town planner, told the group he wanted to mainly concentrate on the urban areas at this time.

Mr. Venditti had asked the groups to outline the parks and public land in their areas which might be used in the future. He stressed that Acton and Georgetown would not have the same policy as the areas are different. He cited the two rivers and large ravines running through Georgetown as good advantages of recreation sites for the future.

Prospect Park in Acton has excellent potential for the future and the natural linear park connecting various sections of the town has other advantages.

## Girl hurt car-bike

Alanna Bowen, 10, of 143 Wynford Place received cuts and bruises on April 16 after her bicycle ran into a car driven by Robert Lyons of Burlington.

The Lyons vehicle sustained \$100 in damages, police estimate, while the bike had \$25 damage.

**Rural areas**  
The town planner said the rural areas would be hard to catalogue as the people are not concentrated in one area. The department has a tendency to put the recreation

facilities where the people are and have the rural residents go to them.

He said that in the urban areas, you have to find out where the people are living and what they want.

Acton area committee chairman Ed Wood inquired about the possibility of putting one or two recreation facilities in the rural area between Acton and Georgetown to be used as an over-

flow for both communities. He said this would be cheaper than building one in Georgetown and one in Acton when the need arises.

Glen Gray, recreation director, said this is part of

the process which is being thought about.

Mr. Wood strongly felt some thought should be given to the rural areas for facilities "because they are Halton Hills also." He pointed out that rural residents might not like seeing in local newspapers that Acton and Georgetown are getting something, and they are not.

**Considerations**  
Mr. Venditti asked the committees to submit two separate reports listing all facilities, whether owned by the town or privately (such as golf courses) park benches, slides, ball diamonds, school playgrounds, etc.

These catalogues must be given to the planning department by the middle of the summer, as an official report must be ready for Council's approval by the end of the summer.

## Meetings stay open

Committee meetings will stay open to press and public. Halton Hills council voted down an administration committee recommendation Tuesday night to bar the press and public from the meetings.

Councillors Les Duby and Roy Booth were alone in their support of closed meetings.

A suggestion to switch planning board and committee meeting nights so reports could not be published before council endorsement was favored by Duby, Booth and Councillor Ern Hyde.



GONE FISHING... Perfect weekend weather brought out fishermen, tennis and ball players and even swimmers to the park. Angling and

soaking up the sun are John Vadeika, Mark and Paul Bray.