

Growth to east halted until board gets MOE facts

Approval of residential developments at the east end of Acton, which eventually could increase the community's population by 8500, will be delayed, at least until the developers can find out from the Ministry of the Environment officials exactly what effect the development will have on town water and sewage treatment facilities.

Conroy Dowson and solicitor Bill Rosenfeld appeared at a planning board meeting last night (Tuesday) on behalf of Alliance-Exurban Developments/McNamara Corporation Ltd., who own part of Lots 29 and 30, Concession 3 and part of Lots 25, 26, 28 and 29, Concession 4 on the eastern town limits. Some of the land is north of Highway 7 and some south, east of Churchill Road.

Rosenfeld reminded the board that in 1973 the Acton East study was tabled at Ac-

ton Council and it was concluded that if the town were to accommodate growth, it would be towards the east. He said two residential developments were recommended, one north of Highway 7 for 4200 people and the other, south of the highway for another 4200.

He said one of the assets of the developments could be extension of trunk services, which could help the town service a new industrial area.

New plan

Rosenfeld explained that the firm has already applied to amend the official plan of the former Esquesing township, which is in force now. A new official plan for all of Halton Hills is currently being worked on. He asked that the town make it clearly known what land uses they wish for the area.

"We feel the Acton East study in principle is a balanced scheme for the new town of Halton Hills to consider," he concluded. "It is a program of balanced growth to the east, which facilitates opening up of a further industrial area."

Limit

Councillor Dick Howitt said he thought the presentation was premature. He explained that the Ministry of the Environment had put a limit of 10,000 population on the capacity of the present Acton sewage treatment plant. The two new developments could raise Acton's population to more than 15,000.

Rosenfeld argued that what the MOE had said is not what the capacity of the plant should be, but what the level of effluent at the end of the process should be.

"There hasn't been an adequate view of what capacity plant can be constructed on that site to come up with the effluent level," he suggested.

Timetable

Howitt, who also sits on the works committee of Halton Region Council, maintained that the committee would get a time table for expansion of the Acton plant this week and that the job would likely go to tender in October.

Recognizing the difference of opinion, which existed, Councillor Ric Morrow suggested further discussion of the question without the correct facts would be a waste of time. He presented a motion saying that the board would reconsider the presentation, if the developers would return with factual material obtained from the MOE.

Councillor Les Duby, who was mayor of Acton in 1973, acknowledged that Acton Council had given the Acton East study approval in principle at that time.

"The question, however, is not just one of the sewage plant, but one of how fast do you want to become twice the size you are?" Duby pointed out.

He recalled that in 1973, Acton Council was having difficulty getting MOE approval for construction of individual homes, let alone developments.

Councillor Joe Hurst reminded his colleagues that the people of Acton are still paying on debentures, which helped construct the present plant. He emphasized that total costs of any expansion required by new development would have to be absorbed by the new portion of the town.

Dowson cautioned the board against planning by the sewage treatment plant alone.

"We would like you to keep your horizons broad," he said. "Set your goals high. The proposal will get sobered up in the process of implementation."

Rosenfeld said he wasn't sure if the MOE had made a final decision. However, he added that if it had made its mind up at 1 million gallons, he had information to prove them wrong.

Hurst said he didn't think the MOE could make its mind up on effluent, until it knows what the influent to the system would be.

"I think it would be better for the town to be at 18,000 and not lose the tannery, than to be at 9,000 and lose the tannery and that's a possibility," he said.

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HORST BARON IS escorted by police from the new court building at Milton. Mr. Baron was found not guilty by reason of insanity Wednesday in connection with the shooting of his wife and two boarders at the Baron farm last October. He was charged with three counts of attempted murder. Mr. Baron has been transferred to Penetanguishene.

Baron 'not guilty' but found insane

An Ontario Supreme Court jury took 40 minutes to decide that Horst Baron, charged on three counts of attempted murder, was not guilty by reason of insanity.

The case was unusual because of the agreement of both counsellors on the verdict open to the jury. Mr. Justice Samuel Hughes said in his address to the seven men and five women.

Crown attorney James Treleven and defence lawyer Louis D. Silver told the jury they could either find Mr. Baron innocent or innocent because of insanity.

Intent

To have established that Mr. Baron was guilty of shooting his wife Hilda Baron, and boarders Gunter Mayer and his nine-year old son Wayne, Mr. Treleven would have had to show that there was intent by Mr. Baron.

"I can't establish, in view of his (Mr. Baron) state of

mind, any intent", the crown counsel told the jury.

Mr. Baron, 50, who wore the same dark blue suit and tie for the week long trial, on hearing the verdict kept the same calm expression police observed he had following the shooting and which he maintained during most of the trial.

Specialists

Mr. Silver, in his summary, relied heavily on the testimony of two mental specialists, who concluded that Mr. Baron was legally insane when he fired a .38 calibre police special revolver at the three people in the kitchen of the Baron home on RR 2 Acton last October 27.

The Baron trial drew few spectators, except on the last day. After the jury retired to consider the evidence, Judge Hughes began hearing several divorce cases in the same courtroom. Approximately 35 people were present when the judge inter-

rupted the hearings in order to receive the Baron jury's decision.

On all counts madame foreman Susan Glover told the court, the jury's decision was unanimous.

"Horst Baron is to be held in custody until the pleasure of the lieutenant-governor is known", the judge said.

Mr. Baron was escorted from the court and the divorce hearings resumed.

Mr. Baron may be taken to Penetanguishene or to some other institution. A review board considers each case on its merits every six months, Mr. Treleven said. Neither the crown attorney or Mr. Silver would estimate how long Mr. Baron will remain in custody.

The case has taken just under six months to complete. The trial, which has sat for five days, started April and ended April 21. There was a five day recess over Easter and Passover.

Add 'em all up

Your taxes could be up over \$100

Halton Hills' average \$9 tax hike in Acton and Georgetown and \$10 in Esquesing, announced here last week, is only a drop in the bucket to the tax hike set by Halton Board of Education.

The two combined will up the average Acton and Georgetown taxes by roughly \$77, while Esquesing taxpayers will be hit with an \$85 jump.

But the bad news is not ended. Halton Region has not yet set their budget, but estimates of the tax increase at that level are guessed to be around \$27. This will be added to the known increases.

Each of the three bodies set their own mill rate, and are completely responsible for their own budgets.

The town upped its mill rate a modest 1.48 in Acton, 1.21 in Georgetown, and 1.51 in Esquesing. The Halton Board of Education increased their mill rate 9.06 in Georgetown, 11.41 in Acton and 12.18 in Esquesing.

The town's average hike is \$9 in Acton and Georgetown, and \$10 in Esquesing, while education costs have upped the average tax rate, \$68 in Acton and Georgetown and \$75 in Esquesing.

Details on Page 3



Al Zanatta Gary Bateman Ian Downie

Three vice-principals transferred from town

A reshuffling of vice-principals in North Halton schools was announced by the Halton Board of Education last week.

Al Zanatta, vice principal of M. Z. Bennett school, has been transferred to Stewarttown school where he will hold the same position. He will be replaced by Angus (Gus) Elliott, currently vice principal at Central public school, Burlington.

Mr. Zanatta has been vice principal at M. Z. Bennett for 2 1/2 years in June and was at Frontenac school, Burlington

for four years before coming to Acton.

Gary Bateman, vice principal of Robert Little school, has been transferred to Brookville school. Larry Ciglen, vice principal at Stewarttown school, will take his place.

Mr. Bateman has been at Robert Little for two years. Before that he was a teacher at M. Z. Bennett school for eight years. He also taught for two years in Etobicoke and two years in Robert Little at the beginning of his career.

To teaching

Ian Downie, vice principal of the high school, had last November, requested and been granted a transfer to Lester B. Pearson high school in Burlington. He will be chairman of Social Sciences. He had previously told the Free Press of his desire to get back into teaching. Before coming to Acton high school principal Dave Katz was also at Lester B. Pearson.

Mr. Downie is being replaced by Lynn McLaren from Oakville's Perdue high school.

One more punch from winter

Old man winter returned to the area Sunday, exactly four months after Christmas, with unwanted gifts of high winds, snow, power cuts and accidents.

Fallen trees and branches cut power in several areas and sent works and hydro crews out in Acton, Esquesing and Georgetown.

Ontario hydro and Halton Hills Works department officials said they can not recall a winter storm striking so late in the year.

The town experienced no power cuts from the storm, Doug Mason, Acton Hydro Commission superintendent, said. A hydro crew cleared away a fallen tree from Main

Street North south of the CNR tracks Sunday morning, Mr. Mason said.

Trees down

The storm with winds reaching about 45 m.p.h. brought quite a few trees down in Georgetown. Frank Morette, Halton Hills general works superintendent said. Fallen trees blocked the fourth line south of Acton and the 10th line, he said.

A snow plow was assigned to Acton and graders were sent to brush snow from the back roads, Mr. Morette said Monday.

Four to six men were brought in to work Sunday. People arrived at church an hour early due to Daylight

Saving Time—soaked by wet flakes.

Mr. Morette said he noticed sporadic cuts in power totalling about ten minutes at his Georgetown home.

Appointment

Halton Hills council accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs. Susan Henry, Knox Street, Acton, from Halton Hills Library Board.

Norman Elliott, 164 Longfield Rd., Acton was appointed for the balance of the year to fill the unexpired term.

Mr. Elliott is a former Acton councillor.

Power at Ballinacree and district was off six hours.

Ontario Hydro operations supervisor in Brampton, Jim Graham, said he could not confirm the length of the Ballinacree area power cut because he had not seen the trouble reports from linemen as of Monday morning.

Mr. Graham did say that most of the power cuts were isolated and that no major power interruptions were reported. He also said crews had worked on repairs throughout Sunday night.

Two area garages responded to 34 calls during the storm. Most drivers needed to be hauled out of ditches, Les Pelidis of Les' BP said.

George Croker of Ospringe Motors reported 19 calls for help during an 18-hour period starting at 6 a.m. Sunday. Along the six mile stretch of Highway 25 between Acton and Ospringe.

A traveller on Highway 25 said some drivers who found themselves off the road received assistance from residents.

Guelph detachment of the OPP investigated 27 accidents during a 12-hour period starting at 11 a.m. Sunday. Eighteen people were injured. Three of the accidents investigated by the Royal City detachment occurred on Highway 25. No charges were laid in the three accidents.

A southbound vehicle went

(Continued on Page 2)

...on way to Penetang

After six months in and out of the news limelight, 50-year-old Horst Baron of Acton was to be taken this week from the old Provincial Jail in Milton and transferred to Penetang, 80 miles north of Toronto.

Mr. Baron, acquitted last week of three charges of

attempted murder on the grounds of insanity, is to become a resident of the isolated, 300-bed Oak Ridge Mental Health Centre—the only maximum-security mental hospital in the province.

About 125 of the hospital's

present population of 280 are considered to be criminally insane.

The Acton resident is being held in custody on a court document called a Lieutenant-Governor's Warrant, which is in effect an open sentence to ensure he will not be readmitted to society until successful treatment by psychiatrists and approval by the provincial cabinet.

Treatment programs at Oak Ridge—whose residents include convicted murderers, rapists and child molesters—are wide-ranging. Among them are LSD use, aversion therapy, nude group encounters and behavioral-modification techniques.

The Penetang centre has been very successful to date in its rehabilitation of persons committed there and, for example, only five of 57 men released back into society through Oak Ridge since 1968 have run afoul of the law again.

By comparison, traditional prisons have an 80 per cent recidivist rate.

Officials at Oak Ridge say patients are normally placed in a regular mental hospital following their release from the maximum-security institution, as a form of halfway stop before being released outright into society.



JUNIOR SABRE Steve Taylor won the lady and her trophy at the team's annual banquet Saturday. Mr. Taylor received the Lady Gerth Trophy for the Most Gentlemanly Player from June Gerth. More banquet pictures inside.

'Thoughtlessness' kills ducks

One and as many as five tame Fairy Lake ducks have been killed what one school official termed the "thoughtlessness" of children.

Robert Little School vice-principal Gary Bateman said he knew of one incident involving a slain duck. He said the child who is supposedly connected with the killing had been talked to. Other pupils have also been interviewed, he said.

"I think it's just thoughtlessness on the kid's part", Mr. Bateman said.

Dam

Evidence of the killing first came to the attention of superintendent of services Alf Duby two weeks ago. A street washer discovered a duck's body near the dam on Mill Street West. Four of five bodies have been found, Mr. Duby said.

"It's the children going

back and forth to Robert Little School", Mr. Duby said. He said the ducks are so tame that it's not hard to draw them close enough so that they can be hit over the head.

Aware

Vice-principal Bateman said he believed the school was aware of the incident before the works department.

"I hope it stops", Mr. Bateman said. He said he

hoped parents will talk with their children about the significance of nature and impress upon them that they should be cherishing, not destroying it.

Mr. Bateman added that Acton is fortunate to have a duck reserve so near an urban area. If these incidents become a trend, "We're going to lose our wildlife population", he said.



JAMES BELCHER, a church organist in Collingwood, came to Acton Monday night see the large pipe organ at Keates Organ Company Limited. The organ was made for a church in Kankakee, Illinois where it will soon be sent. The Company held an open house Monday and Tuesday evenings with many people attending from as far away as Collingwood and Hamilton.

Acton youth, 17

Pleads guilty of trafficking

A 17-year-old Acton youth admitted last week in provincial court in Milton that he sold illegal drugs in this community, and at Acton District High School in particular, for one and one-half years prior to his arrest last Nov. 7.

The youth pleaded guilty before Judge William Sharpe to charges of trafficking in a restricted drug, and trafficking in narcotics, and was

remanded over to May 12 for sentencing.

Minimum six months

A spokesman for Halton Regional Police said that possible fines aside, the youth faces a jail term ranging from a minimum of six months to a maximum of life imprisonment.

The court was told the youth had \$13 in cash on him when arrested, and led police to a brown paper bag which

contained one pound of marijuana (divided up into one-ounce plastic bags) and some hashish.

Bought in Toronto

The court was told the youth had purchased the illegal drugs in Toronto on Nov. 1, paying \$200 for a pound of marijuana and \$20 for one-quarter-pound of hashish.

The street value of the drug was estimated by police at

\$1,500.

The case took a strange twist when the lawyer for the accused told court that \$300 of the \$513 seized by police belonged to a friend of the accused who had asked him to purchase a stereo set.

Judge Sharpe said the friend would have to make application to the Minister of National Health and Welfare in Ottawa to have the money returned.