

Purchase bakery for town parking?

The third reading of a bylaw authorizing the town of Halton Hills to buy Hotchen's Bakery, Willow St., for a parking area, was held up Monday night when merchant Bert Hinton said he was unaware the purchase had progressed as far as bylaw. Cost of the purchase would be assessed to consenting property owners.

He told councillors he had heard indirectly that Paul Nielsen of Halton Hills Parking Authority had been talking to certain merchants. He

warned that some of these are renting their property and do not own it. He claimed that Mr. Nielsen had not approached Acton Medical Group because he knows they are strongly opposed.

Who pays?
"I'm not necessarily opposed to the bakery property being used for a parking area but I want to know who is paying for it?"

Mr. Hinton said if it is a municipal parking lot paid out of the general levy, that would be all right with him,

but if it is paid for only by benefitting merchants it is not.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said council has put the cart before the horse. "Mr. Hinton is here as an owner who will pay, and he has not even been advised before now. The people who would be paying the shot should have the chance to know what's going on."

Attend meeting
The third reading was held up and Mr. Hinton and any delegation were invited to

attend the next finance committee meeting Monday, July 26.

(Merchants have been considering the purchase of Hotchen's bakery, to be razed to make a town parking lot. Consenting property owners would have the costs assessed to them over a period of years. The town would purchase the property and assess the merchants and business men. Monday night's bylaw would be followed by O.M.B. approval and then another bylaw.)



JAMIE LUBBERS, Mildred Heffernan, Kay Hotchen, Wijke Barends and Les Hotchen pose behind Hotchen's Bakery's counter after most of Saturday's sales were made. Hotchens closed their doors for the last time Saturday after nearly 32 years in the business on Willow Street South.

The Acton Free Press

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1976.

One hundred and Second Year.—No. 3.

Twenty Pages.—Fifteen Cents.

Hotchen's closes after 32 years

Les and Kay Hotchen ended nearly 32 years in the Willow Street bakery with little notice and very little fuss Saturday.

For some days a sign in the shop's window stated that Hotchens would be going on vacation Monday, but Saturday a second sign, on the front door, told customers how Hotchens regretted that Acton's only bakery would be closed, not just for three weeks, but forever.

Their decision, which caught many customers by surprise, wasn't known even to Mildred Heffernan, who

has worked for them off-and-on for 20 years. She said she heard it rumored, but got word for sure the day before the closure.

A rush of orders by customers wishing to store enough goods to do them until Hotchens returned from vacation helped prompt an end to the rumors. "As soon as the sign went into the window about our holidays, a man came in and ordered 15 dozen buns," Mrs. Hotchen said. Many other orders were not as large, but they were inflated.

They just could not keep up with the demand.

Baking supplies were becoming more difficult to come by for Hotchen's Bakery Yeast, an essential ingredient in every baking product, is no longer delivered to the bakery, Mrs. Hotchen said. Mr. Hotchen would drive to Saunders Bakery at Rockwood and pick up packs there.

Early The hours, 12 a day, must have began to take a toll on a man whose retirement could never be termed early.

"I just made up my mind. It's getting pretty heavy for one man anyway," Mr. Hotchen said.

On his last working Saturday Mr. Hotchen started as usual with the bread at 3:30 a.m. During weekdays he got to work at six in the morning, but Saturday, with its increase in orders, bread had to be baked early so that it could be sliced for customers.

On a weekday he would bake about 100 loaves of bread, white and brown, but on Saturday the orders would jump to 150.

Choices are Good, Fair and Poor.

Howard Kirkby admits the respondents find some of the questions difficult to answer.

Into Saturday's products went Hotchen's final bag of flour, the last pounds of yeast and the remaining eggs.

Mrs. Hotchen arrived around 7 a.m. and started setting up the shop. She took care of the front and began to feed the cooled tanned loaves

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PARKING LOT could replace Hotchen's Bakery if proposal before council goes through. Delegations will attend Monday's finance committee meeting.

Question need off-street parking?

Is more off-street parking really needed? Two of the merchants who will be attending next Monday's finance committee meeting talked Tuesday to the Free Press about their concerns.

Bert Hinton attended this week's council meeting and was able to defer third reading of a bylaw to purchase Hotchen's for a parking lot. He and Bill Yundt of Acton Pharmacy feel there has not been enough input into the question. In fact, some mer-

chants don't even know about the proposal. Yet they could be asked to finance the purchase through a levy which could increase their commercial assessment by 20 or 25 per cent.

Other ways They wonder if the problem is really as serious as promoters of more off-street parking believe. For instance, they cite the many instances in Acton cars which park in prime spots all day long. The owners are working

in stores and businesses. Some of them park in the same downtown spot every single day, all day.

They suggest the streets could be better policed with a view to enforcing two hour parking limits. Perhaps parking lots could be limited to two hours, too.

Some merchants already provide their own parking; should they be assessed as much as others?

Mr. Hinton and Mr. Yundt aren't opposed to more park-

ing. However they were very surprised to learn that a by-law to purchase property was before council. There must be more information provided, they say.

They agree it would be good if the merchants could present a united front to council. Meanwhile, perhaps the property could be purchased and held.

They will be expressing their opinions next Monday (Paul Nielsen was unavailable for comment.)



CHECKING OFF how they rate social services in north Halton are Alison Willmott, Norman Ave., and Gail Gervais, Acton Blvd. The survey is a summer project of student Howard Kirkby (right) and John Hatherly. They spent Thursday in town seeking replies.

How are services here? survey seeks replies

Two students who are conducting a survey of social service in North Halton spent last Thursday in Acton, talking to people on the street and asking them to fill out their questionnaires. They obtained about 30 replies.

An advertisement containing the same questions appeared in the Free Press and other North Halton papers a couple of weeks ago. Very few replies were mailed in.

John Hatherly, a student at the University of Windsor, and Howard Kirkby of McMaster. Both are living in Milton. Red-haired Mr. Kirby and his wife Leslie lived in Acton when he attended the University of Guelph. Leslie is now employed at Maplehurst Correctional Centre.

Their survey is called North Halton Community Development Project and is operated under the Halton county health unit in Milton.

Right time Howard Kirkby commented their project is very timely. Halton Human Services council executive and the

directors of the Oakville and Burlington social planning councils are setting up a steering committee to investigate regional aspects of social planning. They will consider youth services, day care, etc. Peter Marks of Acton is on the committee.

The questionnaire asked such questions as: "In your



GEAR HOUSING is component of products at Commercial Shearing. Open House there Friday; see inside today's paper.

opinion, how adequate are the following services, in North Halton: Health units, nursing, dental, hospitals, medical doctors, family programs, welfare, manpower, day care, aid to aged, aid to handicapped, education, police protection, fire protection, water, planning, recreation.

"What role do you think the general public should assume in regard to the decision-making process of such programs, as local and regional social and physical planning, education, health and welfare services?"

"How do you feel about the quality of information concerning: what community services are available in North Halton? what programs each service organization provides for the public? how to contact a desired community service organization?"

Choices are Good, Fair and Poor.

Howard Kirkby admits the respondents find some of the questions difficult to answer.

Hydro office here during line building

Ontario Hydro has opened a property field office at 9 Mill W., Acton, which will remain open during the duration of the building of the Colbeck to Milton hydro line. This could be for as long as three years.

The sign at the door will be up soon, and Carolynne Boulough of Acton has been hired as receptionist.

The high tension line is scheduled to pass through Halton Hills and Erin township between the fourth and fifth lines.

Right now the office is open for appraisors and to provide a place for those affected to come and ask questions. When building begins, the office will be headquarters for the construction engineers.

Dual purpose Although Ontario Hydro always has offices in the field during construction, this dual purpose office is a new concept. It was recommended by the Solandt commission that

local offices provide a headquarters for the owners involved as well as for the Hydro staff. Landowners in this area have been informed of the office and asked to make enquiries and bring complaints here.

There is a similar office in Durham.

Field supervisor in charge of the office is Bill Walkom of Don Mills. Three appraisers are working out of the office at present. There are also forestry specialists who value the trees along the line.

53 properties Halton Hills appraisals of 53 properties are all done and the figures have been sent to Toronto.

Appointments are made for appraisals since line technicians and agents prefer to walk through the property involved.

With controversy over the route, some of the owners in Halton Hills wrote letters to Hydro saying they did not

wish to have anything to do with the Hydro officials, Mr. Walkom said.

In these cases by aerial surveys were made by aerial survey.

The number of refusals has been estimated at about 20. Appraisals are now underway in Erin, East Garafraxa and East Luther. The route of the line in Erin township isn't precisely determined yet.

Owners will be presented with two options, to sell their land or give an easement.

Hearing A hearing of inquiry into the necessity of the line will be held, probably early in 1977, and at that time all owners will have an approximate idea of the amount offered for their land. At this time, hydro has to prove the line is needed and the route is right.

Mr. Walkom says there is no doubt that there is need for more power, but where the

line should go "is always a matter of contention."

There is always a possibility of a change in the route, he says.

250 feet Since the line goes down the middle between two lines, and most farmers leave their bush at the back of their land, much of the property in this area is bush. Some of it is also swampy, and some owners feel this is a good way to dispose of this land, Mr. Walkom says.

The line takes a 250-foot swath, so the land required is usually 125 feet from each owner.

Appraisals How are appraisals made? Mr. Walkom explains Hydro does market studies on what farms and land are currently selling for. "We don't set the market price. We're compelled by law under the Expropriation Act to pay market value."

He says it's "public money" being spent "so we don't have the leeway of personal feelings about the property. I think that is what the public would want and insist upon."

Concerned That people affected are deeply concerned is no surprise to Mr. Walkom.

While he is prepared to talk to these people and has plenty of answers, he thinks they should go to the demonstration centre near Barrie.

After the public meetings in Hillsburgh, Hydro got a busload of people together to see the demonstrations. Anyone else who would like to see these demonstrations should contact Jim Dunn of Ontario Hydro, 700 University Ave., Room H8B1T, Toronto, or phone him collect at 592-3957, Mr. Walkom says.

(A tour of this demonstration centre was reported in this paper on June 16).



RECREATION STAFF MEMBERS sport new tops for their photo. They staff the Acton pool, Fairy Lake beach and the wading pool. Standing from left to right are Dave Hannah, David Stanley, Stephen Stanley, John Thompson, Cheryl

Martindale, Debbie Rippon, Lynn Fountain, Tin-eke Vryenhoek. On top of the guard chair is summer supervisor Cathy Ashley, with assistant supervisors Lesley Graham and Susan Ancker on the ladder.