

C of C steps to attract more shoppers downtown with provincial idea as lure

Picture Mill Street peopled with daytime shoppers relaxing on benches shaded by green leafy trees. Picture nighttime shoppers with their paths brightened by golden globed light stands. Picture color co-ordinated store fronts, a side walk checked with brick and concrete.

And picture a Mill Street with no trucks and you have some of the ideas delivered to last Wednesday's Chamber of Commerce meeting that could make the core area a shopper's big apple next year.

Ministry of Industry and Tourism MIT representatives Ted Silverberg and Don Garrett presented a color slide show on Business Improvement Areas (BIA) as part of the meeting.

A BIA is usually a downtown where all retailers fund equally what Mr. Garrett termed beautification of municipal property and promotion of the district to shoppers.

The difference between a BIA and a conventional business group with civic

interests is that the funding of the BIA is compulsory. Once an area takes on BIA status, the town collects a special mill rate, of uniform value, in the area. The money is turned over to a governing board.

Halton Hills town engineer Bob Austin detailed some points on the reconstruction of Mill Street this fall and assistant planner Ron Barnett outlined a way to help with off-street parking, during the meeting in the fire hall.

All three parts of the meeting, more or less, were

aimed at making the downtown more attractive to shoppers in particular and the populace in general.

Endorse

The nearly 30 business heads unanimously endorsed the principle of having downtown designated a Business Improvement Area that would take the reconstructed Mill Street and turn it into one long shopping centre.

A committee was also struck to define an area for a BIA and another area which is most likely to benefit from Hotchen's Bakery becoming

a parking lot. The committee, chaired by Henry Stachyra of First Line TV, will meet the assistant planner.

Paul Nielsen, Terrance Gwyer, Art Gordon and Earl Steckley were also named to the committee. It is to report by September 15.

A 122 vote passed Mr. Nielsen's resolution, which Marilyn Ottaway seconded, that retailers and owners find it desirable to acquire off-street parking.

Notice

All owners, in and out of town, were made aware of the

Chamber's meeting plus 86 notices were issued, Mr. Nielsen said.

The five-block reconstruction of Mill Street is slated to get its top layer of asphalt in May. Most of the work will be done between October 1 and December 10, town engineer Austin said.

The starting point for the Mill Street project is up to the contractor Mr. Austin said. He said that he hoped it would be done block by block. The project will include replacing one collapsed sanitary sewer between Willow and Main

Streets.

"You may not be able to get into your driveways at all times, but hopefully you will be able to park in front", Mr. Austin said. Access will be kept open at each building, he said.

Advise

A member of Clipham Moreton Ltd., consultants, will be on the construction site, Mr. Austin said. He also advised that if there is a problem that he be phoned first.

In response to a question from Ed Bendicks, the town

engineer agreed that this year's reconstruction work could go on till May, but he added that the contractor would lose points from the province if that happened.

There is a penalty clause, Mr. Austin said, if the top coat of asphalt is not down in May.

Snow removal along Mill Street "should be good this year", Mr. Austin said in spite of audience fears that raised man-hole covers would be obstructions.

Before the Mill Street reconstruction is finished the

first steps in acquiring Business Improvement Area status for Acton can be taken. According to MIT rep Garrett approval for a BIA normally comes within four to six months.

Acton districts have been established and others are applying, Mr. Silverberg said. Authority for BIAs comes under the Municipal Act.

BIAs exist in Toronto, Kitchener, Oshawa, Guelph and elsewhere. At one at (Continued on Page 2)

The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Second Year—No. 9.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1976.

Twenty-Four Pages—Fifteen Cents.



FIREFIGHTERS FROM ACTON AND MILTON fought a poultry barn blaze early Friday morning. Nine thousand young turkeys died in the fire at Fisher Farms Ltd. on the town line just south of Sideroad 22. Farm manager Gene

Thompson said that 17,000 other turkeys kept in nearby barns, were not affected by the fire. The baby turkeys arrived at the farm the previous afternoon.

Sounded alarm

Collie dog feared lost in fire

A collie dog that helped alert its R.R. 1 Acton family to a huge barn fire which killed thousands of baby turkeys and caused \$100,000 damage early Friday morning, is feared to have perished in the blaze.

Fisher Farm manager Gene Thompson, 34, said Monday he feared that Spot, the farm's collie, was caught in the barn during the fire. The farm is located just south of Sideroad 22 on the town line.

The barn's whitewashed stone foundation is blackened and the heat-twisted metal sides are sprawled over the yard.

The barn was where Spot headed when a thunderstorm

sounded, Judy Thompson said. A thunderstorm passed through the area Thursday evening.

The loss of the barn, chicks, and feed amounts to approximately \$100,000, Milton Fire Chief A.E. Clement said Tuesday. "We're assuming it was a brooder stove", he said about the cause of the blaze. He added, however, that he could not say for sure.

Firefighters from Acton and Milton fought the blaze. Acton was first on the scene with one truck, and Milton followed with two plus a van.

"It was lightning at 11:30 p.m. when we came out (of the barn) and everything was alright then", Mr. Thompson said.

Dorothy Leece, who pounded the Thompson's door until they woke up said her attention was drawn to the fire just before 2 a.m. by the barking of the Thompsons' dogs and one of her own.

The door knocking roused Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Thompson, 29, their sons Larry 3, Danny 2, and summer helper Doug Brown, 15.

Listowel

The Thompson farm is just north and west of the Leece place. Spot, the collie, belonged to the farm, which is owned by Bert Fisher Farms Ltd., of Listowel. Mr. Thompson has his own dog, Tramp.

The day-old turkeys were put in the barn at 2 p.m. Thursday afternoon when

they arrived from Penetanguishene, Mr. Thompson said.

The farm manager estimated that each bird, depending on the type, would cost between 60 cents and a dollar, which would put the loss between \$5,520 and \$9,200. Mr. Thompson said he also lost a tractor and nearly \$2,000 in tools in the barn.

Another 16,000 turkeys in two nearby barns were not harmed, Mr. Thompson said. He has raised turkeys for about three years.

Milton firefighters got to the fire about an hour after the truck from Acton. Fire chief Clement said that Acton got the call first, then asked Milton to come out. "The directions were a bit vague", he said. The truck drivers tell me they thought Sideroad 22 came out to the Guelph Line.

Roads

Fire Chief Clement said that he was not at the fire. "We're not as familiar with (Continued on Page 2)

Available still

980 sign petition due at council September 7

By Wednesday morning, 980 signatures had been placed on sheets appealing against the announced decision to require Acton people to pay their water bills in Georgetown or through the banks.

Date has been set for a delegation to bring the names of protesters to council Tuesday evening, September 7.

The forms are still avail-

able for signing at both drug stores, A.B. supermarket, IGA, Sweetman's shoe stores and Jockey's variety store.

About 350 signed a petition in July opposing a costly municipal complex.

When the announcement about the change in payments came in the mail, Mrs. Theresa Lockertie, Churchhill Rd. S., got together with her mother, Mrs. Sandra Marzo,

Crescent St., and they were so annoyed they decided to take up a petition. The two of them have been gathering names in time available since then, with the help of three willing young people, Michaela and Joe Pupo and Connie Albano.

The response has been "super", Mrs. Marzo and Mrs. Lockertie found. Everyone was aware of the change in policy and wanted

to sign the petition against it.

They said they were really surprised at the welcome they received when they explained what they were doing. Some invited them in and wanted to talk over the situation.

The mother and daughter team said many asked them "Do you think we'll ever get Acton back again?"

Report asks Acton office

A recommendation that a municipal office remain open in Acton is due to come before Halton Hills council Tuesday evening, Sept. 7. At that time an Acton delegation will also be present, with their petition requesting an Acton office and the right to pay bills there.

The recommendation, explains councillor Pat McKenzie, calls for offices here for the area recreation director, the fire chief and a clerk. The report was prepared by the fire chief, recreation department and planner.

Mr. McKenzie says he's glad there is a petition from Acton people coming to back up the request for an Acton office.

After he learned of the decision that payment of water bills

was to be in Georgetown or at the banks, he contacted Ken Faulkner, who is in charge of Acton-Georgetown billing for the region. Mr. Faulkner told Mr. McKenzie he did not realize an office would be open in Acton. He said he felt a cost-sharing arrangement could be worked out so Acton people could pay their bills in Acton, at no additional cost.

In the past the region has contributed between \$20,000 to \$21,000 annually toward the Acton office. They planned to change to paying half the cost of a staff member in Georgetown, where the billing is now done.

The region had decided the saving should be applied to the Acton water area, which shows a deficit.

PAY BILLS IN GEORGETOWN?

SIGN in store brought swift agreement and signatures. Many underlined "Acton" in their address. Petition goes to council next week.

Acton water going up

Residents in Acton will almost definitely face increased water rates next year. Regional Public Works Director Bob Moore told the region's administration committee that the Acton water budget would be \$47,000 overspent in 1976 if all of the planned works in that community are carried out.

Moore said that the Acton water system was in need of costly repairs and the improvements would have to be phased over the next few years resulting in increasing costs for the foreseeable future.

Generally water systems are deemed to be self supporting but this isn't the case in Acton with the heavy work schedule.

Regional Treasurer Don Farmer has suggested that some of the work be paid out of the Halton Hills capital levy account. This would, in effect, share the cost of the work over that entire town instead of applying the costs to the Acton area.

The committee agreed that Halton Hills would have to make the decision on how the works should be paid for. The committee agreed that work planned for this year would be deferred if Halton Hills didn't come up with the money or a proposal to pay it.

Burlington Mayor George Harrington said he was con-

(Continued on page 3)



NEW HIGH SCHOOL vice principal Lyn McLaren and principal Dean Fink are back to school a bit early to make sure everything will run smoothly when classes commence. Mr. McLaren, former vice principal of Perdue high school in Oakville, started his career teaching physical education at Georgetown high school.

Woman killed as car rolls

A Burlington woman died early Saturday morning when the car she was driving went out of control on the First Line one mile south of Britannia Rd.

The car, a convertible, hit a bridge abutment, rolling over and throwing the woman into a ditch. She died of head injuries.

Mrs. Trudy George, 28, of 1256 Guelph Line was driving with her brother-in-law William George, member of the armed forces stationed in Dartmouth, N.S., when she lost control of the car. It had no seat belts, police said.

Mr. George is "improving satisfactorily" from abrasions, lacerations and contusions according to a Milton District Hospital spokesman.

Halton Regional Police were called to the scene at approximately 5:30 a.m., when Mr. George walked to a neighboring farmhouse for help. Police estimate the time of the accident as 3:30 a.m.

An autopsy will be performed this week.

Funeral service was held Monday afternoon at the Rumley-Shoemaker funeral home, Acton, with interment in Fairview Cemetery.

Rev. W. Fosbury conducted the service with pallbearers brother-in-law Bob Priestman, Orton; brother-in-law Stan Rhynold, Acton; friend Wilfred Rhynold, Milton; friend Brian Evans, Acton; uncle Art Wood, Hamilton and uncle Sid Spear, Georgetown.

Trudy George is survived by husband Graham George; children Margaret Lynne, Cathy Hilda and Angela Marie, all of Burlington; parents Fred and Marg Spear, formerly of R.R. 3, Acton and now of R.R. 2, Hillsburgh; brothers Richard and Roy, R.R. 2, Hillsburgh; sisters Gayle Butler, Rockwood; Carolyn Priestman, R.R. 1, Orton; Brenda Hillier, Acton; Nancy Rhynold, Acton; Debbie Rhynold, Acton; Melody Spear at home, and Vicki Anderson, Milton.

She attended Woodside public school and Erin high school.

Mrs. George's sister Melody is pitcher for the Hillsburgh North Stars Junior ball team, due to play the second game of finals Monday against Georgetown. The game was postponed until Tuesday.

Wins two national awards

An Acton man's work has walked off with two top Canadian awards in the National Parks and Recreation Association Audio-Visual contest.

Peter Saxon, head of Peeter Saxon Presentations, received word last week that a slide-audio program he put together for the Etobicoke Parks and Recreation Services won in the Canadian contest. The presentation won both the Interpretation of Parks and Recreation and the Program Resources and Materials categories.

The Spirit of '76, as the contest is termed, is judged out of

Calgary, Alberta. The judges, Jerry Irwin, of Mt. Royal College and chairman, Peter Grant of the Leisures Branch, Government of British Columbia announced the winning slide-tape presentation "is a sophisticated presentation that truly reflects the 'people services' aims and objective of Canadian Parks and Recreation today."

The two men continued that it was "a presentation that provides a challenge to the profession that it remain flexible in response to the citizens' needs but provide the leadership and support to our fast changing communities."

Both men agreed the 20 minute presentation was technically and artistically well done in script, visuals and message.

Mr. Saxon's work will now enter the American Judging contest "Spirit of '76" held at the NRTA national convention in Boston in September.

The Etobicoke Parks and Recreation Services submitted the presentation in the original contest.

In his office and workshop above Hinton's store, Mr. Saxon produces slide-tape programs for clients all over North America.

October start paving

The bylaw providing for the reconstruction of Mill St. this fall is now at the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in Toronto to receive approval and tenders will be called as soon as it is returned. After three weeks the tenders will be awarded and more approvals given.

This sets the beginning of

work on the five-block stretch of Mill into early in October, says town engineer Bob Austin. Actual start of work depends on the contractor but the asphalt must be down by December 10. Traffic will then be able to move down Mill again right away.

The final coat of asphalt will be applied in the spring.

Some storm sewer work and sewer and water work for the region will also be included in the project.

The work was held up slightly by design problems, Mr. Austin explains.

The five blocks will be closed to traffic which will be rerouted along Bower and Church St. during the work.



PETER SAXON, head and founder of Peeter Saxon Presentations, has recently moved his office and workshop above Bert Hinton's store on Mill St. Companies from all over North America have engaged Mr. Saxon's talents and creativity to produce a slide-sound presentation in order to show their product to their customers.