

# The Acton Free Press

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Twenty-Six Pages—Fifteen Cents

## Chamber will seek downtown as BID

About 70 per cent of the downtown merchants moved another step forward last night in their drive to have the eight-block long core area designated a Business Improvement District (BID) at a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

They decided that Halton Hills council will be represented with three requests, the main one being that Mill street, and the first blocks on both sides of it, from Bower Avenue to Park Avenue and along Main Street from Church Street to St. Alban's Drive will become a BID under the Municipal Act.

A committee, set up from a previous Chamber meeting, will also ask that textured sidewalks be installed within the BID. The committee, chaired by Henry Stachyra, is also to request that distinctive lighting be erected in the new area.

**Management**  
The BID is a Ministry of Industry and Tourism (MIT) concept which enables a management board to use special funds to run the town core like a shopping centre. Specifically the management board uses money raised in taxes within the downtown to improve municipal lands and promote the core as a shopping district.

Robert Pollock from the provincial ministry used a color slide presentation to show the approximately 40 people in the Legion how the BID works, and where it has already worked. The meeting went 3 hours.

A few in the audience had already seen the 45 minute presentation at the Chamber's meeting on the improvement areas last August. Chamber president Louis Charlebois said that although there was a move early two

months ago to get a BID set up in Acton, he felt too few people were present to give the C of S sufficient authority.

**70 Per cent present**  
"Tonight approximately 70 per cent of the merchants were present," Mr. Charlebois said after the meeting. Several merchants who missed the August presentation in the Fire Hall asked to have another chance to see it, Mr. Charlebois said.

Last night was the first chance for Mr. Pollock to come to Acton Mr. Charlebois added.

About 30 people went to the Fire Hall meeting, but the chamber president said that about half of them were not merchants.

In between meetings the Stachyra committee prepared its request and got approval from the town's works committee for the installation of textured sidewalk between Main and John Streets along Mill Street.

Chamber secretary Betty Eastwood told the Legion meeting that Mr. Stachyra's committee first intended to go to council, but that it was directed to the municipal works committee instead.

**Present motion**  
Bert Hinton introduced the motion to last night's meeting for the acceptance of the committee's three point report and that the committee present the document to council.

Paul Nielsen and Ed Hendricks both jumped to second the motion. In a show of hands vote, most people voted. There was one vote against the motion.

In the slide presentation, Mr. Pollock showed that BIDs are a response from downtown areas to the shopping centre's attraction for the cross-the-counter dollar.

ener, Ottawa, Toronto, Sarnia and many other places have one or more improvement areas, Mr. Pollock said.

**Show improvements**  
Slides showed that municipal improvements often take the form of textured sidewalks, benches on sidewalks, hidden parking lots and tree and flower arrangement on sidewalks.

Some of the ideas presented on how to better attract the

shoppers to an area were common advertising for the core members, painting of store fronts, creation of events and sidewalk sales.

Mr. Pollock suggested that while the Chamber waits for council to approve its request for BID status, that the core go ahead and set up an unofficial group of steering committee. The steering committee could start forming plans for town council.

## \$309,483 for Mill

Reconstruction of Mill Street in Acton will cost \$309,483.77, Halton Hills council learned Monday night.

The town awarded the contract, which includes complete reconstruction, region underground work and installation of interlocking paving stones on the sidewalks, to King Paving of Oakville.

Engineer Robert Austin told council the tenders had come in "somewhat" over estimates.

## North Halton police get new radar set

North Halton speeders better watch out.

Halton Regional Police are getting new radar for use in Halton Hills and Milton.

Chief Ken Skerrett told Halton Police Commission, the force has three used radar sets to trade in for one new radar set which will be used in District One.

He asked the commission's permission to trade in the old radar sets and explained the estimate to repair one of the worn-out machines was \$600, while a brand new one costs

only \$1,200.

He said the oldest unit was seven years old and the police could get \$100 for it on a trade-in. The other two are both five years old and he expects the department can get more for them when they are traded in.

The commission went along with Skerrett's suggestion since it seemed financially practical.

## for Mayor

A by-law will be prepared for a special council meeting next Tuesday to designate Acting Mayor Russ Miller as Mayor Tom Hill's replacement at regional council.

Since the mayor has been in hospital for over a month now and away from regional council under Bill 151 the town can name a replacement.

Monday Halton Hills council decided since the town has such a small number of regional councillors someone should be named to replace Hill who is hospitalized with a foot infection.

Miller was chosen since he is this month's acting mayor. He will be Hill's replacement at regional council for the month of October only and will relinquish the job should the mayor return to work before the end of October.

Several councillors predicted Hill will be out of hospital very soon.

## Special meeting

An attempt was made by Ed Wood, and others to go ahead with the selection last night for the steering committee, but Chamber officials said that a special meeting for that purpose would have to be called.

Funds for the BID board of management come from a Business Improvement District Tax, which is collected by the town based on realty tax, Mr. Pollock said.

**\$2.65 weekly**  
The cost of a BID, ran one jewellery store owner in the first BID, on Toronto's Bloor Street West, to \$2.65 per week, Mr. Pollock said. The 19-by-80 foot store increased its business, Mr. Pollock said the owner claimed, 100 per cent over six years.

The Bloor Street West BID has 265 stores with some \$47,000 for development, said the ministry official.

**Can't overspend**  
During the one year life of a board of management, Mr. Pollock said it is not allowed to over spend its budget.

In order to stop the formation of a BID or to halt one even after it's going, one third of the business tax-payers within it must make its objections known.

Everyone has 60 days to oppose a proposed BID by-law, Mr. Pollock said. People have only to notify the town clerk to register their objection. If the number of objections is less than a third, then council can go ahead with second and third reading of the proposed bylaw.

People can also object, even after the bylaw is passed, said the provincial official. They can go to the Ontario Municipal Board when the bylaw comes up for examination, he said.

Mike Kinal said, after seeing the slide presentation, that it "hit home". I've personally been in business in five of the areas where shopping centres have opened, and the areas went down", he said.

"If we don't do something in downtown Acton, some of us will sink", Mr. Kinal said.

## Concern

Councillor Les Duby told Halton Hills council Monday he is concerned about inconsistencies in traffic control for school children crossing Queen Street.

He said sometimes there are pupil-run safety patrols at the crossing, sometimes policemen, sometimes adult crossing guards and occasionally no one helping children get across the busy street.

Duby was advised by Councillor Mike Armstrong to check into the problem with clerk-administrator Doug Pritchard since he hires the crossing guards.

## Citizen of Year dinner Friday

Honoring Acton's librarian of more than 50 years this Friday evening, Acton Chamber of Commerce will be holding their annual Citizen of the Year dinner and dance.

Guest of honor is Mrs. Isabel Watson who has been chief librarian for 50 years and worked part-time in the village library even before that. She is soon to retire.

The annual Citizen of the Year event, normally held in the spring has been moved to the fall. The event is scheduled for Acton Legion Auditorium with dinner at 7 p.m. preceded by a cocktail hour. A dance follows at 9 p.m.

Tickets for the event are still available, Chamber officials report.

The honoring of a citizen each year was initiated by the Chamber of Commerce in 1958. Since that time many who have made a contribution to the community have been honored. Last year the local detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police was honored as they terminated their service to the community.



FALL COLORS, cascading leaves, children enjoying the brilliant sunshine. . . all signs of the beautiful fall season are reflected in a scene in the Robert Little school yard. The pre-

Thanksgiving weather highlighted the transparency of the leaves as they dressed the country side for one of Ontario's most attractive seasons. Photo by Forrester

## Council rejects delay bid for hike in ice rental rates

Ice rates will remain at \$30 an hour at Acton arena but groups using the rink will get a chance to try and change council's mind about the charges.

Monday Councillor Les Duby asked Halton Hills council to hold off implementing the new ice rates until five groups using the rink have a chance to make a presentation to council October 18.

Duby said he had received a letter from an Acton Sabres' official stating that since the hockey team had talked to administration committee last week they were approached by all other groups using the arena.

Duby said the groups have decided to make a joint presentation to council and would have liked to have been at council Monday but simply didn't have the time to prepare a presentation.

He said he thought the joint presentation idea was good and it would be better for council to deal with all the groups at one time rather than deal with each separately.

**No problem**  
He suggested it would be no problem for council to put off final decision concerning the Acton ice rates for two weeks until council hears the presentation. Duby added the two week delay would give councillors and recreation staff enough time to dig out facts and figures to substantiate the higher ice rates.

Duby noted the administration committee had come up with what the members felt were reasonable ice rates and the groups still weren't satisfied so the place for them to go now was council and not back to committee.

Councillor Ric Morrow said he would be very disappointed if council didn't proceed and approve the administration committee's ice rate recommendation.

He said the groups could still come and try and change council's mind but reminded everyone the committee's decision wasn't just the result of last week's meeting.

recreation staff and the committee had been taking a good long look at ice rates for some time and had met with many groups before coming to its decision.

"It came down to a \$2 an hour difference between their position and ours. That is \$70 a year," he stated.

**Not hasty**  
He said everyone had worked all summer on the ice rates so a hasty decision wouldn't have to be made in November when hockey season was on and noted the committee had looked at ice rates objectively.

"Council should put these rates into effect tonight and then let them come and ask for a change," Morrow urged. Councillor Ernie Sykes agreed with Morrow as did Councillor Harry Levy who said "we have said we want our arenas to be more self-sufficient. These new rates have been applied to Georgetown so why shouldn't they apply to Acton too."

Councillor Pat McKenzie said five groups are affected by these new rates and suggested it was simply a courtesy to the people to wait for their presentation before making a decision.

"What will be the use of charging these new rates if it leaves the building empty and closed down?" he wondered. **Some paid \$5.50**  
Councillor George Maltby noted for one event last year the town got 80 cents and one team was paying only \$5.50 an hour for ice time all winter. He said he couldn't understand how the town could avoid hefty rate increases unless the staff works for nothing and the town gets the hydro free.

"It would be cheaper to close the building than continue getting low rental rates. If we get below \$30 an hour we are subsidizing hockey and then other groups like curlers and golfers will have the right to come and ask for the same thing. I don't think \$30 is out of line," Maltby said.

Councillor Ern Hyde said the least the town could do is hear the groups and not jump the gun by making a decision which could easily be deferred two weeks.

## Size difference

Duby said he realized the town has to make the rinks pay their own way "but when one town of 17,000 people draws 600 and one of 7,000 can only draw 150 to games why are the rates so high. Is the town of 7,000 expected to pay the price of being small." He added because of size there has to be differences in the rates between Georgetown and Acton.

Councillor Roy Booth said he was all in favor of hearing the groups but he thought council should go ahead and make a decision at the meeting. He noted the arenas are running at a \$33,000 a year deficit and the recreation department was instructed to come up with higher rates which would reduce the deficit and that is what the department did.

McKenzie said the teams don't want a free ride but wondered why the cost has to be \$30. He suggested there are other areas in which the town could cut corners without increasing rates so much. He said at least one deferred two weeks.

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## No Day of Protest for Acton workers

Acton unions have decided not to participate in the October 14 Day of Protest.

The Canadian Labor Congress has called for Canada wide day in which citizens would protest Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's Price and Wage Control Program announced last October 14.

Jack Walker, president of the Sawworkers Local 23650 at Disston said union members voted on whether or not to protest that day. He told the Free Press the majority of the people decided to stay at the jobs. Mr. Walker said the workers would observe the day, but not take any action.

Local 603 of the United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America at Building Products of Canada Ltd. said the union members discussed it, but decided against the protest. Mr. Daigle said they had work to do and could not afford to get behind, even by one day.

Bill Speilvogel, president of Local P479 of the Canadian Food and Allied Workers at Beardmore also said his union members decided to stay on the job after a discussion. They felt it wouldn't do much good, he said.

In the meantime, Milton unions are preparing a car rally to Oakville on October 14. There they will join

counterparts from Oakville and Burlington.

Following this they will head down to Member of Parliament Dr. Frank Philbrook's office on Lakeshore Rd. Dr. Philbrook has declined an invitation to be at his office on that day to meet with the union members. He told this newspaper he would likely be in Ottawa, as Parliament will be in session. He said it was a matter of priorities, and he has to make the decision whether to be in Ottawa or at a speaking engagement.

More loads in Georgetown will be joining the Brampton District Labor Council in Brampton to protest there.



FIVE-YEAR OLD PAUL CAMPBELL gets an advance "Lesson" on metal work from industrial arts teacher Doug Hines during a meet the teacher night at Robert Little school Monday. Mr. Hines showed Paul, a grade 1 student how to flatten a steel dish in the shop of the Old Stone School. Paul's father Brian watches from the back.