

Swetmans carry on 70-year-old tradition

Fourth of a series
There has been a shoe store located at 19 Mill St. E. for more than 70 years, and the current owners, David and Alma Swetman, strive to give the same quality and service shown in the early 1900's.

Background
Mr. Swetman was born in Strathmore, Alberta, and moved to Seattle, Washington when he was 15. He graduated from the University of Washington with his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He also served four years in the American Air Force.

Mrs. Swetman was born in Ingersoll, Ontario. She graduated from Woodstock School of Nursing. Her nursing career took her to Edmonton, Fairbanks Alaska and Seattle. It was here the two met and married. She returned to Canada and to the University of Toronto to take a public health nursing course and was the community health nurse for Escouping in 1969 and 1970. Her husband worked as a professional engineer with Northern Electric, Bell Northern Research and Bell Canada at various positions in Montreal, Belleville, Ottawa and Brampton.

In 1969 the couple moved to Acton, while Mr. Swetman worked in Brampton. He was transferred to Montreal for a two year stay, and then back to Toronto, when, once again, they moved to Acton.

When they bought the store in 1974 from Bill Benson, Mr. Swetman intended to continue working at his engineering job for a few years, but after six months, found it necessary to join his wife in the store as business kept booming.

The store is closed Sundays and Mondays, but the Swetmans are in the building on Mondays, taking stock, inventory, etc. In the case of an emergency, however, they will allow a customer in, even though the blinds are shut. During this month's wild snowstorm, they let in several people who were caught without winter boots!

Because they carry all lines of shoes, from baby shoes to work boots, they do not have any particular busy season. Mr. Swetman pointed out that some of the larger shoe stores are phasing out children's shoes because they are hard to fit, but they have no intention of doing this.

The Swetmans and their parttime help have taken courses on fitting people, and are looking forward to the next course coming up soon. In what little spare time the couple manage to get, Mr. Swetman enjoys golf and carpentry. Mrs. Swetman likes reading, golf and cross country skiing.

Various organizations vie for their time also. Mr. Swetman is a member of the Acton Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary club, APEO (Associating of Professional Engineers of Ontario) and various groups in the shoe business.

Mrs. Swetman is on the board of directors of the Community Services Centre, and is a member of the Registered Nursing Association of Ontario. The couple has two teenage sons, Chris and Mike, who also help in the store.

The store was founded 73 years ago by John and Bill Kenney. The brothers sold their business and Pallant's clothing store had a shoe store branch there for a few months. Then they moved all the stock further down Mill St.

In 1938, Eugene Braida rented the premises, and sold the business to Bill Benson 18 years later. Mr. Benson kept the store for 17 1/2 years, when the Swetmans took over.

The Swetmans proudly remarked that some children who were fitted years ago by Mr. Braida, are bringing their youngsters in now. "The most important thing is to keep up the quality and service," they both agree emphatically.



DAVID AND ALMA Swetman go over the new spring line-up of shoes in their Mill St. store, while the winter styles are still on display behind them.

Town - school board even on cost-sharing

Halton Hills and Halton Board of Education came out just about even in the costs of sharing school facilities, last year.

Costs absorbed by the board were \$25,403 and by the town \$25,879.

Finance Administration Committee recommended

Councillor Roy Booth again sat on the Community Schools Administration Committee, the group which works out mutual problems.

In 1975 the financial situation was reversed with Board of Education absorbing \$32,479 and the town \$11,030. According to Recreation Director Glen Gray, more maintenance has been done by the town, and the schools used more frequently for town programs.

Mixed blessing

It may be a mixed blessing, but councillors' wives will be able to phone them when they are at committee meetings.

Councillor Roy Booth recommended a phone plug be installed in the upstairs committee room. There is one already installed in the council chamber.

He proposed a quiet dinner and social evening for councillors and their spouses. He said he wanted them to get to know one another on a personal basis.

Chairman Morrow had barely finished setting an amiable tone for the meeting when Councillor Archie Donaghey rose on a point of personal privilege.

He used his point of privilege to ask Morrow if he could provide written assurance that the physical and mental pressures of his job of chairman wouldn't jeopardize the safety of any of his passengers. (Morrow is a commercial pilot.)

Silliest ever
Before Morrow could answer, Councillor Mac Anderson jumped to his feet to say it was the silliest point of personal privilege he'd ever heard.

Morrow smiled and agreed to provide the letter Donaghey had requested. Donaghey had been a diehard Al Masson supporter and his challenge passed without any other comment.

Asks \$25,000, car for part time job

Halton Regional Council will be asked to approve a salary of \$25,000 for Ric Morrow in his role as a part time chairman of the region. Council will consider a recommendation to that effect when it meets today.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said that Mr. Morrow has said he'd be putting in three days a week as regional chairman and he noted that the \$25,000 was "Almost bang on three fifths of the salary paid to Mr. Masson as a full time chairman."

Mr. Morrow had recommended the \$25,000 figure in a letter to councillors. Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen was the only one who said the \$25,000 was too much, when the Administration Committee discussed it Wednesday. The committee also recommended that the by-law setting the salary be worded to allow Morrow to claim one-third of the salary as expenses; therefore non-taxable.

Car too
If council endorses the committee recommendation, Mr. Morrow will have full use of the 1974 Ford purchased by

the province for Allan Masson when he was appointed chairman.

Morrow said his first inclination was to use his own car and collect mileage, but he noted the region's car has 50,000 miles on it, is appraised at \$1,300 and is still considered to be in good shape.

While the committee agreed Morrow could use the car for the balance of his term, members were cautious to indicate they might not want to go to the expense of purchasing a replacement for the chairman, once this one is discarded.

Morrow said he took exception to remarks in the press suggesting "The part time chairman has a full time car." He said the car had been serviced and sent to his home the day before the meeting. "I haven't started it and will not start it until council deals with it."

Questioned later, he said he had not seen or heard the remark but had been advised it had been on a local radio station.

\$25,000 too much
Councillor Eriksen said he couldn't support \$25,000 but

Review committee

Regional chairman Ric Morrow thinks the views of some of Halton Region's new councillors should be reflected in the report which the Bill 151 review committee will present to council this year.

He is recommending to administration committee and regional council that Councillors Roy Booth, Halton Hills; Laurie Mannell, Oakville; Walter Mulewicz, Burlington; and Milton Mayor Don Gordon be added to the committee.

Morrow has also suggested newly-elected Burlington Mayor Mary Munro replace former mayor George Harrington on the committee. Councillors Pat McKenzie, Halton Hills; Jim Watson, Milton; and Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett are expected to return to the committee.

By suggesting membership be expanded from four to eight councillors, Morrow says he is hoping to get a blend of veterans and rookies. The Bill 151 review committee was set up last year to examine legislation which set

up regional government in Halton to see if there are ways to improve it, including elimination of duplication

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Chimney fire Friday

Acton Fire Chief Mick Holmes and Milton firefighters responded to a call in the Speyside area Friday evening, when a fire in the chimney at the home of Leo Cassivi was reported.

The kitchen walls and ceiling received fire damage, but fire chief Mick Holmes said the damage has not yet been estimated. The family was forced to move out of the house as there was no heat, and the pipes froze.

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Morrow strives for fuller understanding

In an effort to provide regional councillors with a fuller understanding of the whole region, newly elected chairman Ric Morrow will invite representatives of related agencies to speak on a rotating basis at council meetings.

He said representatives of the Children's Aid Society, Halton Police Commission, Land Division Committee and the Conservation Authorities would be invited.

Morrow acknowledged that council neither controlled or was immediately concerned with those bodies, but he felt council could operate better as a unit if it had a fuller understanding in those areas. Speaking at a staff-council seminar, the new chairman said he would be sending out forms on which councillors could identify the priorities as they see them for the next two years.

That is in keeping with the pitch he had made prior to his election. He had said he wanted councillors to set priorities and get back "to representing the views of the people."

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