

Happy newcomers

Models, bikes star in new hobby store

There's a new little shop in town that's selling miniatures of just about everything—but you don't have to be small to be interested.

Robbie's Hobbies opened its door for business on Willow St. N. three weeks ago Saturday and already it's often crammed with regular customers—most of them under five feet tall.

The big attraction is the shop's selection of model kits: cars, airplanes, ships and trains crowd the shelves. But the real centre of attention is the go-cart and mini-bike on display in the window.

They've made a bigger hit with small fry than after-school television and lunch combined.

The hobby shop is the brainchild of a new Acton resident, Mrs. Barbara Robinson, and she's enthusiastic about both her business and the town she's chosen to open it in.

Will display Mrs. Robinson is a long time hobbyist herself. She does rug hooking, wire art and string art as well as painting and some examples of her work will be on display in the store soon.

Her partner in the new venture is Paul Mason of Race Prep Engineering in Mississauga. His interests lie with just about anything motorized and he'll be providing technical know-how to help youngsters (or adults) get started with the powered boat and airplane models that are

the shop's specialties. Right now he's completing work on a radio-controlled model of a Spitfire fighter plane. So far the balsa wood model has consumed 400 hours building time. When it's finished he plans to hang it on permanent display in the store.

Although the shop carries balsa airplanes ranging from 69 cent rubber band powered models to \$60 radio controlled giants capable of prolonged flight Mrs. Robinson emphasizes that the larger models are not for beginners. She recommends that anyone interested in the larger kits start with something a little less complicated and work their way up.

Took firsts Mr. Mason will also be lending his expertise to fledgling mini-bike and go-cart enthusiasts. Race Prep both manufactures and services go-carts and Mr. Mason is no stranger to the go-cart racing circuit. Last year the company took all of the firsts in Canadian go-cart racing and Mr. Mason himself holds the Canadian National Championship.

Mrs. Robinson is originally from Toronto and says she browsed for a house outside of the city all summer before finding a house she wanted in Acton.

"I moved in the first of September and I was only in the house one day when a neighbour asked me to join ladies' softball. I've found



JIM JOHNSON tries out the go-cart at Robbie's Hobbies while Joe Balkind, Jim Thomas, Sean Haverty and store owner Barbara Robinson (Robbie) look on.

that people here are really friendly, people come into the store and talk. I've lived in Toronto all of my life and you don't even get to meet your neighbour there," she said.

Kids happy Her children, seven-year-old Barbara and Steven, five, are both enrolled at M.Z. Bennett school and she says

just as happy with small town life as she is. "The kids just love it here," she says. "They're happier and out with their friends all the time. When we were in the city they wouldn't even go outside without me."

Tight now she's hoping that business will be good enough to allow her to expand the

shop and being selling bicycles later in the year. There's a lot of excitement among her regular customers too because the store is sponsoring a model contest later in the spring.

But the biggest job right now is "just basically getting interested in the children who come in," she says.

Appeal corridor severance

The town of Halton Hills will appeal a severance of 15.8 acres, approved by Halton Land Division Committee, for the hydro corridor, if council accepts a planning board recommendation. The land, owned by Lee Wilkinson, is near Highway 25 and Five Sideroad.

Councillor Pat Patterson said he understood Lee Wilkinson sought the land severance for Ontario Hydro, to whom he is willing to sell the land. Patterson said the town should appeal.

Councillor Russ Miller said he felt very strongly about it. He said the people along the line simply want an independent study done. "They feel if we don't lodge an appeal we are condoning the hydro corridor". He said he understood this land is held in trust, and is not farmed.

Patterson called the severance a "leg up for Hydro". Chairman Les Duby contended by appealing the severance, the town would not weaken the citizen's argument.

Miller said the residents had spent a large amount of their own money to try for an independent study, and said it is urgent for the town to appeal the first severance.

Councillor Pat McKenzie claimed urban communities and industries must have power. "If the line isn't built somewhere where will the power produced in the Lake Huron area go? We have to look at both sides."

farmer on 22 Sideroad, near the Fourth Line, has 80 acres which would be criss-crossed with hydro lines. He said the lines don't even follow the fence lines.

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Red Cross here independent

The local branch of the Red Cross Society will become an independent chapter this year, according to society chairman Henry Kroes.

The chapter was founded three years ago but its activities and finances have been co-ordinated by the Georgetown Red Cross. But this year the chapter has opened a bank account in Acton and will co-ordinate local Red Cross community services themselves.

Mr. Kroes said they will need between \$700 and \$800 to operate this year. 70 volunteers

Right now 70 volunteer canvassers are going through town collecting donations to help with the society's work. March is Red Cross Month and the campaign will con-

tinue for another week at least.

Mr. Kroes said that so far about \$500 has been collected. If the campaign raises more money than is necessary to provide for the work of the local chapter the remainder will go to aid the society's activities in other areas, he said.

Kick Devlin is co-ordinating the chapter's industrial campaign this year.

Letters were mailed out to local industries on March 1 and he says donations are starting to come in now. If the canvassers miss you and you want to make a donation send it to Mr. Devlin in care of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

The chapter operates throughout the year, providing wheelchairs, hospital beds and similar items free of charge to local residents. They also sponsor regular blood donor clinics and provide a transportation service for the sick and elderly.

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Don't let complex slip in—Armstrong

A municipal complex should not be allowed to slide through disguised as a long term solution to staff accommodation problems, Councillor Mike Armstrong made clear, Monday night, at Halton Hills council.

He pointed out the finance administration minutes said the long term solution would be construction of a central administration building to be started by January 1, 1979.

said the adoption of the minutes would not commit council to build the building, but pointed out it had been included in the capital budget for 1978. He admitted the wording could be taken to mean the building was to be built.

"That's the way I took it," replied Armstrong. "Me too," commented Councillor Pete Pomeroy. He said even the short term solution for the planning department, which would have them

remain where they are, was unsatisfactory. He said he would like that portion of the minutes referred back to committee.

Councillor George Malby said the wording is wrong in the report and definitely shows intent to build an administration building.

Councillor Peter Marks contended the municipal complex was included in the capital budget simply to gain deputation approval, not to build a building.

Armstrong commented, "A lot of people felt opposing a complex was a great way to

get elected, and I'm not knocking it; it worked but it's a pretty wild statement in the minutes saying: 'a building to be commenced by January 1, 1979. Let's call a spade a spade and get it ironed out.'"

He said there was no point in trying for a deputation until a decision is made.

Marks claimed it was no sudden revelation to anyone. He said items had been approved in the capital budget that may never be built.

Council finally referred the whole subject to a joint council and department head meeting.

Blue bird

Mrs. C. Cutts, Church St., was startled to see her first robin of the season perched on her apartment balcony during Friday's blowing snowstorm.

Several robins were seen in town last week.

Accident in service station

Cars driven by Anne Brent, R.R. 2, Acton, and Hjalmar Tiesenhansen, R.R. 1, Acton, were involved in a collision March 17 in the Arrow Service station. \$325 damage was done.

C of C wants . . .

(Continued from page one) park of 100 acres in Georgetown could support 25 mixed industrial facilities and create 1,000 jobs. He added initial construction would pump \$10 million a year into the local economy and generate \$700,000 a year in taxes.

He said many people are concerned about the slipping industrial-commercial tax base when it is compared to residential development. Gray added one important industry is closing down (Domtar) while another (Abitibi) is being phased out.

Gray told the councillors both the Acton and Georgetown Chambers of Commerce are suggesting separate committees but aren't opposed to an amalgamated one for the whole town.

Gray explained the Chambers of Commerce in Georgetown, Milton, Oakville, Burlington and Acton all belong to the Halton Chamber of Commerce and meet monthly to exchange ideas. He added the Acton and Georgetown chambers have discussed the idea of

joining and having one chamber for Halton Hills but this hasn't been worked out yet.

Mayor Tom Hill said Halton Hills is one town and there should be just one industrial committee. He urged the Georgetown and Acton chambers to get together and come up with members to sit on the committee.

Gray said he would contact the Acton Chamber of Commerce to get a list of volunteers from Acton to go along with the volunteers from Georgetown and present the

names to planning board next Tuesday. He said speed in setting up the committee is of the essence since the person in charge of the region's industrial department may be hired very soon.

Magwood on library board

Douglas Magwood, 42 Greystone Crescent, Georgetown, was appointed to Halton Hills library board for the remainder of this year, to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Lyn Beattie, who resigned.

Mr. Magwood is principal of M. Z. Bennett school, Acton. Prior to his position in Acton, he was principal of Woodside Public School, Oakville, and taught for several years in Georgetown.

HRCA Chairman gets hike

A 100 per cent pay hike was approved for HRCA chairman Brock Harris at a meeting of the full Authority last Thursday night.

Mr. Harris will now receive a \$4,000 yearly honorarium for his work as head of the HRCA compared with just

\$2,000 in 1976. The Authority also voted in favour of paying a \$500 honorarium to vice-chairman Gordon Krantz. HRCA vice-chairmen have never received financial compensation for their work in past years.

Property damage

While town workmen were unblocking a storm sewer causing flooding at 92 Main St. North, Acton, damage was done to a bridge and fence on private property. Councillor Peter Marks told Halton Hills council, Monday night.

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