

## Downtown check list

BIA study's recommendations, in brief:

- establishment of a leather theme
- immediate acquisition of Hotchen's property and additional property for parking from Willow through John
- rental, upgrading and marking of the parking lot behind IGA and the Dominion Hotel
- parking meters at Hotchen's lot, Trinity United church lot, Main from Church to St. Alban's, Mill from Main to Frederick, Willow from Church to Bower, John from Church to Bower
- hiring of a bylaw enforcement officer, to be shared with Georgetown
- sidewalk projections on Mill
- trees and street furniture on Main
- building improvement program
- prohibition of overhanging signs
- free-standing canopy along Mill for weather protection
- rental and landscaping of the small space at the north-east corner of Mill and Main
- BIA entrance signs
- planters and benches at the municipal building
- planters, seating and lighting at the United church lot.
- use of the town hall as a prominent community feature
- establishment of a farmers' market
- privately-initiated improvements.

## Draft plan circulating



A preview of what Mill could be - streetscaping and continuous canopy for weather protection

# Leather town looks ahead

Reaction to the draft report on a Revitalization Plan for Acton Business Centre is very good, smiles Business Improvement Area board of directors chairman Henry Stachyra Tuesday. After receiving seven copies of the report last week, he is circulating them to all the 75 merchants and businessmen included in the area this week. He is also having extra copies made.

So far the response has been very enthusiastic, he says. Business people are particularly pleased by the suggestions that the town assume a leather theme and for the re-institution of the short-lived Saturday morning market. The illustrations are also attracting much attention, he said.

Questionnaires will go to all the people in the downtown business blocks effected and they are to be back to Mr. Stachyra by August 12. After another meeting with Anthrogram Limited, which prepared the draft, a final report will be presented in September. A public meeting will then be called.

The cost of \$3875 paid by the BIA to Anthrogram will include the final report.

The BIA is financed by business assessment, and assessments jumped 50 per cent this year to cover the cost of the new sidewalks and this report.

The BIA will have an \$8,000 surplus to begin next year. They budgeted this year for \$20,000,

the maximum amount allowed. The amount may vary considerably from year to year.

Mr. Stachyra is counting on a good response to the questionnaire and good, constructive criticism. He is very encouraged by what he's heard so far.

On the BIA board of directors are Mr. Stachyra, Dave Swetman, Mike Kinal, Ed Wood, Bill Yundt, Terry Gwyer and councillor Pat McKenzie.

Doug Flowers of Anthrogram Limited met with them several times and made many contacts here before writing the draft report.

Full report on page 6

## Traffic can cross bridge

There will be continuous flow of traffic on Main St. N., answering a question which has been puzzling residents since road construction began there.

Workmen plan to have a one-way flow of traffic at all times. A flagman will direct the north-south flow on the one lane all during working hours.

After the workmen have left for the day, two lanes will be open for traffic.

Firefighters and police will be given to their vehicles in the event of any emergency.

The area of the small bridge had caused concern since the Main and Mill reconstruction programs began. There were suggestions—some of them fairly far-fetched—for alternative routes.

However the workmen are now certain they can keep their work to one side. The two lanes which will be open will be at the extreme east side of Main N.

The corner of River and Main has been paved over this week to make it easier for huge trucks to turn. These trucks have been having much difficulty manoeuvring corners since reconstruction began. Some road signs have been temporarily taken down since they were being struck by trucks.

Although some trouble with quicksand had been anticipated, workmen say they are able to cope with the sand well. The earth under the bridge is clay, they believe.

The men in the King Paving crews comment they have had few complaints from local people despite all the noise, dust, detours and confusion.

# The Acton Free Press.

One hundred and Third Year.—No. 5.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1977.

Twenty Pages.—Fifteen Cents.

## Storm cuts services back to normal today

Sunday's flash storm, which hit most areas of Southern Ontario quite heavily, knocked out hydro, television cable and telephone lines in Acton, affecting local residents for as little as three hours to as much as three days.

About 50 per cent of the town was affected by any one of the three malfunctions, no hydro-no telephone-no cable television, and at press time the only area in Acton which was still not in full operation was the Kingham Rd. area.

"There seems to be a lot of water seeping into our underground cable system from the storm," said John Ollivier, Program Director for Halton Cable Systems. "We had problems with some other areas in Acton and along Highway 25 South but, with the exception of Kingham Rd. our customers had 100 per cent service by 6 a.m. Monday."

"We've been having a lot of power problems this summer because of the great number of electrical storms in the area," he added. "But, we have just purchased standby power equipment which should retain the power our equipment needs, thus preventing breakdowns in service."

Ollivier said that no extra manpower was needed to check the lines, 60 per cent of which are on poles and 40 per cent which are buried.

There were some blown fuses and some of the lighting arrestors were broken but there was nothing really serious... just annoying.

"Our problems resulted from a hydro shortage," Ollivier stated.

"Hydro in Acton was out for about three hours and 20 minutes in five separate areas of Acton," said Ken Hodgson, a lineman with Acton Hydro. "Five trees were responsible for the black-outs in the Church St. area, some sections of Mill St., Poplar Ave., Frederick St. and Kingham Rd. The lightning and high winds knocked the trees into the lines, usually breaking them with their weight."

Hodgson and partner George Cook handled the

## M.Z.B. 97 on Friday

On Friday Minnie Z. Bennett will observe her 97th birthday.

This well-known Actonian was school principal for many years and of course the M.Z. Bennett School is named in her honor. She is a former Citizen of the Year.

Her eyesight is poor, but she still enjoys contact with relatives and friends.

Her address is Central Park Lodge, Room 709, 290 Queen St., Kitchener.

black-outs in Acton and had power restored in the five areas by 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

"We had no extra manpower for this one," laughed Hodgson. "Just George and me."

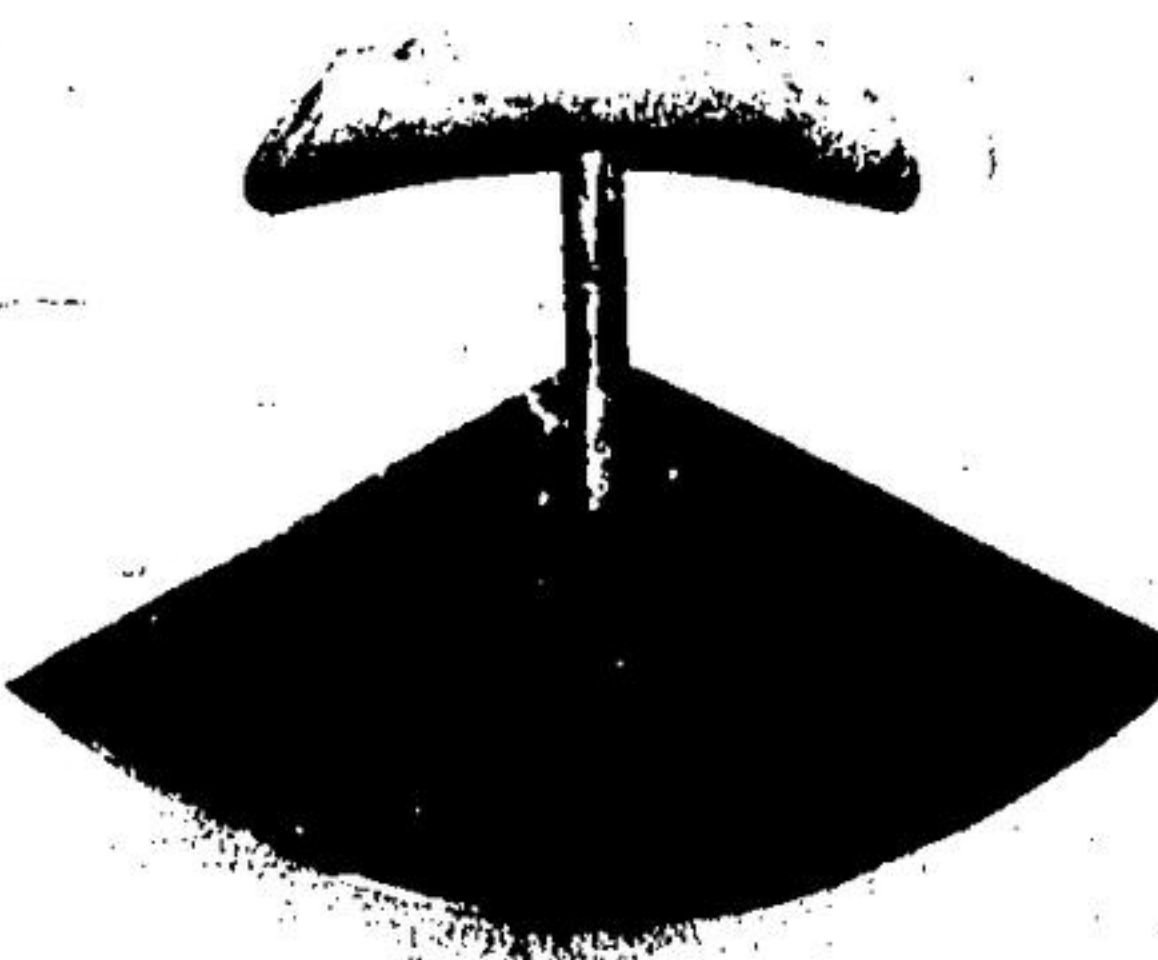
Bell Canada took the brunt of the storm in Acton and hoped to restore service in the Kingham Rd. area by this afternoon.

"Sixteen customers in Acton are not receiving service," said Flo Duke, Assistant Manager of Public Relations at Bell Canada. "We hope to have service restored by 6 p.m. Wednesday."

The problem for Bell started when an 8,000 volt primary high tension cable draped itself over one of Bell Canada's service lines. The sparks off the hydro cable slowly fused the individual service lines together, thus ending service.

Bell Canada has had extra around-the-clock manpower in Acton, splicing cable and repairing the damage.

There were many fallen branches and streets were littered with them after the skies cleared. One large branch struck the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vic Elliott and family on Church St. Another large branch fell off a tree at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mike DeJong and family, Church St., and blew all the way up Willow to Morse Hardware.



WHAT is it? It's an ulu knife, an Eskimo hide scraping tool. Where was it handcrafted? Coppermine N.W.T. Why did it surprise its purchaser? See Page 3.

## Portables move out

There are a few minor traffic problems created by construction on Mill St. and Highway 25 in Acton and they are going to seem larger this week as The Halton Board of Education moves 11 portable classrooms from Acton to various points in the Region of Halton where they are now needed.

"We are moving 11 portable classrooms from Robert Little, M. Z. Bennett and Mackenzie Smith School in Acton to seven points in the southern part of the region," said John Cargo, assistant superintendent of Plant Operations and Maintenance.

"We'll be moving one or two portable classrooms a day if we're lucky and the weather's all right."

Milton District High School will get two portable classrooms. Robert Baldwin School, Milton, will get three. Martin Street Middle School, Milton, will get one, Brookville Public School will get one, J. M. Denyes Public School, Milton, will get two. Polly Fisher School in Burlington will get one and the North Education Centre in Burlington will get one.

The portable classrooms range in age from two to 10 years and have been moved as much as five times.

## Addition to fire hall will be \$200,000, expert tells council

The estimate for the addition to Acton fire hall is \$200,000 according to Alan Zeegen, consulting engineer.

He told Halton Hills council Tuesday night, the cost will be higher if the windows and fascia are matched to those in the town hall. He emphasized the \$200,000 is for the fire hall alone and does not include work on the town hall, except for the demolition of the stage.

Mr. Zeegen explained he met the Acton citizens' group, who are trying to restore the town hall. "They wanted us to give prices on having the fire hall look as much like the town hall as possible." A separate price would be obtained for this, he added.

Fire chief Mick Holmes said he had not been in touch with the citizens' group recently. He said the group agreed to the removal of the stage, if the face of it is left intact. "They did not want square windows," he said.

Councillor Peter Marks asked what the cost would be without changes to match the town hall.

Mr. Zeegen said probably \$200,000 could be saved.

Councillor Les Doby contended the extra cost must be weighed against the wishes of the citizens. He pointed out negotiations were started to give firemen space, but now both requirements must be met.

Mayor Tom Hill claimed council had decided to hold up the firemen's request until it was known if the citizens could raise money to restore the town hall.

In reply, Mr. Zeegen predicted no interruption in fire department routine, since they would be building above the existing fire hall.

Councillor Russ Miller pointed out there was only \$100,000 in the bank tentatively earmarked for a new library, should be used. "It would appear, it would be sometime before the library is started," Booth said. He urged no debentures be issued and the total cost taken from lot levies to eliminate debt charges.

Booth contended lot levies from four developments starting in the next year, could be used if the new li-

brary is built.

Marks claimed the need for the fire hall is evident and agreed that a library seemed to be in the future.

Councillor Miller asked for a report on how the financing could be arranged.

The motion to prepare the final drawings passed unanimously.

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## Thefts

A purse was reported stolen from the M.Z. Bennett school this week, containing \$45.

A car radio antenna was reported stolen from a car parked at the corner of Main and Mill.

Pranks on Kingham Rd.

A Kingham resident reported to police someone entered his home, turned on the stove, glued the phone receiver to the phone body, put a pot of foodstuffs on the stove and pulled flowers in the garden.

## Town wells pump overtime

Noticed bubbles in your water?

The milky appearance is due to the fact pumps are working overtime at the town wells, to provide enough water these days. The dry weather and heat have in-

creased the call on the wells resulting in the steady pumping.

Another well at the end of the park is due to come into service in October, and this will relieve the strain on the present water supplies.

## Committee waffles on regional road expansion

Halton Regional Public Works Committee Chairman Jack Raftis was unsuccessful in convincing his committee to quash any notion of expanding a regional roads system to incorporate roads in the urban parts of Burlington and Oakville.

The committee was commenting on a report which encouraged the region to assume new roads in the regional road system. Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid reminded the council that the province would make grants available over a five year transition period if the region moved towards the expansion now. Some councillors feared losing the grants if they didn't proceed with expansion.

Burlington Councillor Verni Connell said most of the roads in the system are in the north

now and he argued the system is clearly inequitable. "It isn't a matter of whether you change the system or not, but a question of how to go about it," he said.

Oakville Councillor Laurie Mannell said he favored returning all roads to the area levels and introducing a grant structure to assist with maintenance of roads in the north, where the population is sparse and there are many miles of roads.

Regional Chairman Ric Morrow said he wanted to be certain that Halton avoided the situation that occurred in Hamilton-Wentworth. He claimed Hamilton-Wentworth took over a lot of regional roads at great expense to the region, but there was no savings to the area levels.

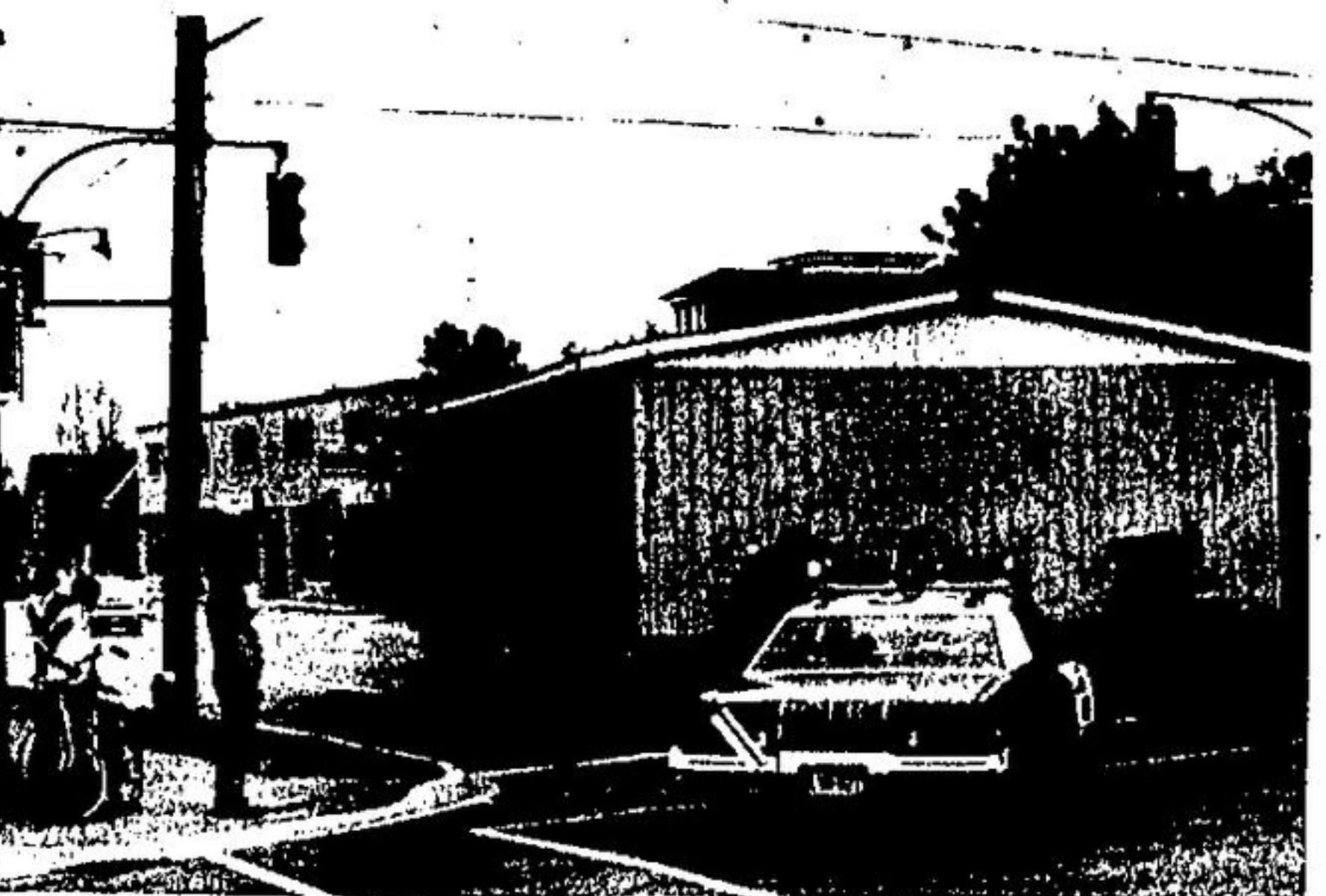
Raftis asked the committee

to support his motion that would have abolished any idea of expanding regional roads and put the matter to rest. But the committee wasn't ready for that. His motion was defeated but there was no motion suggesting any action be taken. In other words, the matter was left in limbo.

Raftis left the meeting at that point and told the committee it could do as it pleased with the rest of the agenda.

Outside the chambers, Raftis told reporters he wasn't upset with the committee action. "No, I'm not upset. I feel that I'm in control of the committee and always have been."

He said he was confident the committee would eventually pass what he calls a sensible motion.



Moving the portables — here it comes! And there it goes, rear guard and all