

Homeowners say

# Motel expansion may harm wells



MARGARET AND RAY Thompson will be leaving Acton and moving to R.R. 1, Georgetown. Mr. Thompson has sold his business Thompson Fuels on Young St., and plans to enjoy life and travel.

Homeowners living near Cedar Springs motel are worried about expansion of Halton Hills' only motel fearing their wells could be in trouble.

Betsy Cornwell and John Tobin, RR 1 Georgetown, told a Niagara Escarpment Commission hearing at the Halton Hills administration building Thursday an expanded septic system to accommodate 11 more motel units and a private residence could pollute their wells.

The motel, recently purchased by Max Bogovic, will be spruced up and a second floor with 11 extra motel rooms will be added. In addition a home will be built behind the motel for the owner and his family.

Mrs. Cornwell and her husband Norman appealed the

commission's decision to allow the motel expansion noting area homeowners have shallow wells because of the high water table.

She pointed out the motel expansion will necessitate enlargement of the septic tank system and with a high water table their wells would then be "vulnerable" to pollution. She said there has been a lot of troubles with wells in Glen Williams and Norval.

"An enlarged septic tank system poses a threat to our wells," she declared.

Mrs. Cornwell said she didn't think approval of location of the enlarged septic system by Halton Region Board of Health was sufficient and called for greater "safeguards."

She said traffic is also a

minor concern since the motel entrance and exit is "awkward."

Tobin presented a petition signed by himself and five other homeowners who are also concerned with pollution to their wells.

"This could affect every well in the area," Tobin testified.

He said he was also concerned about traffic and a recurrence of rowdy activities at the motel which police had to handle last year.

Bogovic noted if there is a problem his water will be effected first and he will know right away since his water is checked frequently by the health unit, as a motel operator. He added the driveway is standard for a motel.

Ruth Melady, a Niagara Escarpment Commission planner, said the main reason the development was approved was the dire need for motel accommodations in Halton Hills.

She said the commission depends on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority and Halton Health Unit to make sure the septic system is properly located and installed. The planner explained the system will be checked after it is installed too.

Until the two agencies are completely satisfied with plans for the septic system no development permit will be issued by the commission Ms. Melady stated.

Tobin said controls are fine but he has found they are often broken. He noted there is another case in the area

where commission regulations have been broken and nothing has been done. He said he has little faith in the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

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## Ray Thompson retires after 31 years of service

Ray Thompson is retiring tomorrow (Thursday) while he is still young enough to enjoy his retirement.

Mr. Thompson has been the owner of Thompson Fuels for 31 years, and tomorrow will be handing the keys to the shop over to Lloyd McIntyre, an employee of his for the past ten years who has purchased the business.

In 1946, Mr. Thompson owned a Ford garage at 130 Mill St., where Canadian Tire now stands. He had worked there as a mechanic before buying out the business.

Then, in September of 1946, he decided to be petroleum products distributor for BA, now Gulf.

Mr. Thompson said at this time, homes were just switching over to oil furnaces from coal or wood. He was taking a chance, because no one knew how well the oil furnaces would work. The price of oil was 14 cents a gallon.

Whenever he got enough orders, Mr. Thompson said, he would drive his truck to Galt and fill up there, and then distribute fuel to his local customers. He has since watched the price increase to

53 cents a gallon (including Tuesday's increase). Mr. Thompson said the price stayed under 20 cents until about ten years ago, when the cost began to rise steadily.

As business increased, and more and more homes converted to oil, Mr. Thompson found it necessary to put in storage tanks of his own. He was then able to service his customers as they placed their orders without delay.

Mr. Thompson feels his customers have been faithful to him. He never hesitated to deliver oil any time of day or night. He explained that whether it was a Sunday or Christmas Day, noon or midnight, he would get the oil to his customers as quickly as possible.

After all these years in the business, Mr. Thompson said he is working on the second generation of families. He delivers to some families whose parents he served and in some cases he has both generations. He watched some of his present day customers grow up.

With the high cost of energy on everyone's minds today,

Mr. Thompson said that no matter what method people are using to heat their homes, or power their farm machinery, it all costs the same. He pointed out that if the energy is oil, gas, or electricity, it all costs basically the same.

When asked about the effect of last winter on his business, Mr. Thompson said that sales were about average. He explained that December and January were the busiest months, with sales some days reaching 15,000 gallons of oil. He pointed out in other years he would not sell that much in a month. However, once January's storms subsided, the weather turned mild quickly, and balanced out the overall sales for the season.

Mr. Thompson and his wife Margaret have both devoted 31 years of their lives to the oil business, which was recognized last year by Gulf Oil Company, when he received a plaque.

He admits that business always came first and personal life second. Working seven days a week meant his family never went on long trips and holidays. Two of the

four children have moved away from home, one just recently married. Mr. Thompson plans to travel across the country in his retirement, and is looking forward to seeing the country he is so devoted to.

The family has purchased a home at R.R. 1, Georgetown, and for the first time in his life, Mr. Thompson will not have an Acton mailing address. That, he says, is going to be the strangest part of his retirement.

Mr. Thompson stressed that he was only semi-retiring. His hobby is metal lathe work and he hopes to put this to use for himself and friends. However after 31 years of being committed to his customers and supplying them with oil before they even realize they are low, he does not want to be committed to do any work by any special time. He wants to enjoy life and what it has to offer.

An era is coming to an end in Acton tomorrow, and Acton and district customers will miss Mr. Thompson and wife Margaret. However, an era is also beginning as Mr. McIntyre takes over from Mr. Thompson.

### Horse injured

A horse owned by an Acton man is recuperating after it received extensive injuries when in collision with a car driven by James Lindsay, 74 Nelson Cr. on Friday on Main St. N.

Halton Regional Police report there was \$1500 in estimated damages to the Lindsay vehicle.

The horse received severe cuts to his torso and nose and possible broken tendon in its leg. Following the incident, the animal was taken to the barn in which it is boarded, where Acton vet Ron Trenton treated it.

Drivers of both vehicles escaped with minor injuries after a motorcycle and car were in collision Saturday.

Milton Ontario Provincial Police report a car and a motorcycle collided on Highway 7 at the Limehouse Rd. when one vehicle was making a left hand turn into a private driveway.

John Grant of Georgetown was driving a Chrysler and Ronald Haefner of 34 Peel St., Acton was on the motorcycle. Police estimate a total of \$600 to both vehicles.

## Citizens' Band fourth at Ex

Acton Citizens' Band placed fourth out of five entries at the Exhibition Sunday, but players and bandmaster were quite pleased with their showing.

In first place was the Cambridge Concert Band with 86.75 marks, in second place Brampton Citizens Band with 85.25 marks, in third place Alliston Concert Band with 81.5 marks, in fourth place Acton with 81.25 marks and fifth Paris Citizens' Band with 80.75.

Band master George Elliott explained Monday that both Cambridge and Brampton are much larger bands than the other three, with as many as 80 players, some of them professionals. Acton had 43 players. "We really couldn't hope to compete in experience and training," Mr. Elliott said.

The other three bands were better matched. In fact Paris received higher marks than Acton last year.

In previous years, there have been three sections for Canadian bands, where there are now only two. This puts Acton in with stiffer competition.

There are also International competitions which include the bands from the U.S. Acton did not enter these classes this year, choosing to spend more time on two selections for the Ex.

The set piece was A Wilderness Overture by Jared Spears. As their choice they played the Andante from the Second Violin Concerto by Strauss.

Mr. Elliott said the band played as well as they ever have. The competition was in a new and pleasant location, the Carlsberg Courtyard. Quite a few Acton people were among the audience.

Judge Martin Boudry commented the Acton band presented generally a good reading of the Wilderness Overture and a good careful interpretation but said they needed a bit more intensity at times.

Of their Andante he said they were overall some fine sounds, and the reading of the

notes was well done. Again he said their lack was in warmth and intensity.

Judge Ted Robbins said the band had obviously spent a great deal of time on the notes, and should work on interpretations and feeling.

Both commented that the musicians were well in tune (which is not easy for an amateur band, says their leader.)

Acton band has several players of public school age; Paris also had young players. The other bands all would have players of much older average age.

The band left by bus about 7:30 a.m. and the bus headed for home after the fireworks. Some travelled by private car.

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FOR DISPLAY AT THE ACTON FALL FAIR

**AMATEURS ONLY**

Best black and white or colour photographs, suitable for publication, with credit, in the Acton Free Press.

Picture Subject - a scene, children, animals, building, flowers etc. of general interest, taken within ten miles of Acton.

Three entries per person permitted (Children's entries welcome.)

Colour photographs judged separately from black and white.

Negatives and prints to be submitted to the Free Press so judging may be completed and pictures enlarged for display at the Fall Fair.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES FRIDAY, SEPT. 9th**

First prizes \$5, three honorable mentions at \$2.50 each, up to 10 awards of \$1 each in each category, colour and black and white.

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