

# Buy Hotchen's for parking

Off street parking in downtown Acton will soon become a reality after years of discussion.

The much talked about purchase of Hotchen's Bakery property on Willow Street was approved at a price of \$45,000 plus expenses at a special meeting of Halton Hills council last Tuesday night.

Councillors met behind closed doors for about an hour reviewing a report from a special committee set up to examine parking in ward one. The report was kept confidential and there was no explanation for council's decision.

The clerk was directed to contact Acton's Business Improvement Area to arrange

construction of the parking lot once the purchase is completed.

Councillor Roy Booth said he was opposed to the purchase. He explained funds gathered from the sale of town owned land can't be earmarked for a specific project but instead must be added to town revenue and allocated in the budget.

The town hopes to use money from the sale of the unused pump house on Main Street South to finance the entire project.

Mr. Booth also said the lot may not be necessary if the town hall is torn down. He said no decision should be made until the citizens' report is submitted on the fate of the town hall. A report

was due the last day of 1977 he noted. If the town hall isn't saved, a parking lot could be built beside the expanded fire hall.

Mr. Booth was joined in opposing the Hotchen Bakery purchase by Councillors Peter Morris, Walter Blehn and George Maltby. Mayor Tom Hill, Councillors Armstrong, Pat McKenzie, Les Dudy, Peter Marks, Peter Pomeroy and Marilyn Serjeantson supported the purchase. Councillors Russ Miller and Pat Patterson were absent.

At the same meeting parking on Bower and Willow Streets were designated by council for volunteer firefighters.

There will be five spots on

the south side of Bower between the fire hall and John Street.

Another five spaces will be on the north side of Bower between the post office and restricted parking area.

Seven spaces will be reserved for firefighters on the east side of Willow from Bower to the north side of St. Alban's.

The spots will be for both firefighters and emergency vehicles.

Different methods of covering the cost of purchasing the building had been debated over the past year. Some merchants favored the purchase strongly; others opposed it.

During the course of this discussion, Parking prota-

gonists Paul Neilsen, Mike Kinal and Don Lindsay purchased the building from the Hotchens so they would no longer have to wait for a decision. They paid \$43,000 and held on to it, in the hope the town would soon take over.

The property is beside the bank parking lot and there is also the possibility the new lot could run right through the block to John Street.

The need for parking has been a constant concern at businessmen's meetings in the past years. The firefighters have also been stressing to councillors their need for more parking spaces.



OLD FRAME building will be torn down to create a municipal parking lot, council has decided. The old structure was originally known as Matthews hall, and town council met here before the town hall was built. It was also the first home of the Free Press, now 103 years old. The building was moved from Mill St., and most recently housed Hotchen's Bakery.

## The Acton Free Press

ACTON, ONTARIO  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1978

One Hundred and Third Year - No. 27.      Eighteen Pages - Fifteen Cents.

## Noisy welcome for young 1978

Depending on how you look at it, New Year's Eve was either very noisy or very quiet.

To the hundreds of people in silly hats blowing horns and throwing streamers, 1978 came in with a terrible racket.

But the police who were on duty say it was quiet.

There were dances and house parties all over town and the district New Year's Eve, as many people gathered with family and friends to welcome in the new year. Not all the dances were sold out, perhaps showing a trend toward house parties.

The largest crowd was at the Legion, where 550 celebrated together.

There were dances at the Music Centre, curling club, golf club, and arena, as well as special parties at a hotel and restaurants.

Acton Minor Hockey again organized their New Year's dance at the arena which had a sell-out crowd. All 60 couples tickets were sold.

Six couples organized the special dance, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Buchanan, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Incoe, Mr. and Mrs. Don Van Fleet, Mr. and Mrs. Weir, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Allsop and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kinal.

Mr. Incoe is Minor Hockey Association chairman, Mrs. Van Fleet secretary and Mrs. Weir treasurer.

Over 40 per cent of those attending were young people, and "everyone had a terrific time" they reported. Henry Arbic was disc jockey.

There was a large buffet, prepared by the Acton Delicatessen and the committee.

Profits—if any—are donated to a charity.

The big band sound came to the Music Centre with the band Eli from Guelph. One of the players is Ralph Bowen of Acton district.

There were about 45 couples attending and a midnight buffet was served.

This annual dance is run by a committee of Acton Citizens' Band.

The Dominion Hotel had a special party New Year's Eve attended by over 75 people. Tickets were sold in advance covering all costs and there was a buffet. Music was by the band Ron Lane.

Everyone was very pleased with the party, the hotel management said.

The Station Hotel did not have a special party.

The Legion hall was crammed on New Year's Eve with 550 people there. All rooms were open to all those who attended this year, as an innovation. There was one single cover charge.

Two different groups played, appealing to different age groups, B. J. Wright and Company and Bob and Cory.

There was a delicious hot buffet.

The organizers were very happy with the success of the evening.

At the curling club, Kent Tocher played for the New Year's revellers and there was a good crowd, although not a sell-out.

A full crowd was reported at the golf course dance at the Acton Meadows golf course Saturday night. Some 150 people attended.

Another large crowd spent an enjoyable evening together at the Rockmosa Centre, seeing the New Year in.

Police report nothing unusual on New Year's Eve with liquor offenses about "average."

Driving conditions were good.



Ron Waples  
**Second record for Ron Waples**

Rockwood's Ron Waples, who two weeks ago became the first harness driver to win more than \$1 million in purse earnings in one year of driving in Canada, last Tuesday broke a second mark in racing as he won his 300th race of the year, driving Katoomba A to victory in the ninth race at Greenwood.

Waples won five races that night, including the daily double.

Having reached his goal, Waples is easing off from the driving pace he has set in the last few weeks in his stretch run for the 300 win mark.

He will still race the winter session at Greenwood but will not be jumping from track to track to get extra rides.

In his record setting drive he took Katoomba A to the front at the start and set fractions of 31 1/5, 1:03.4 and 1:34 on the way to the one lengthwin.

### Snowmobile grounded

An unmanned snowmobile belonging to a Highway 25 man was given a rough ride on the Fourth Line Thursday evening.

Frank Jones, Lot 2 Concession 2 of Erin, was north bound on the Fourth Line with a snowmobile in back of his pickup truck.

The snow machine fell to the road after it came loose and broke through the rear cover of the truck, according to Halton Regional Police.

Damage to the snowmobile amounts to about \$2,000, police say. Also the canvas top in the truck was damaged for \$400, say police.



ONLY OPEN water on the lake is this patch behind the arena. It's cramped quarters for the wild fowl, who must have water to survive. Swans are also visible in the feathery crowd around the water hole. The birds are fed regularly by town workmen and by neighborhood friends.

Beardmore bubblers usually keep water open on the other arm of the lake but Beardmore officials say they have no need to install the bubblers and aren't considering having them soon.

## Two dozen house break-ins suspect professional thieves

Halton Regional Police are seeking public assistance in tracking down a professional crime ring responsible for more than two dozen un-solved housebreaking and theft incidents during the last year.

Isolated country homes in Nassagaweya and Esquesing, Milton and area have been the targets of a highly organized and professional house-breaking ring, according to Kelth Robertson, senior detective in the Crime Investigation Branch of Halton Regional Police.

The two dozen cases in the last year, each involving

between \$500 and \$6,000 worth of stolen goods, are typified by careful organization and planning, with the majority of the thefts including stereo and television sets, coin and stamp collections, silverware and some jewelry, he said.

"They are pros, and know exactly what they want when they enter a home," said Sergeant Robertson. All homes have been entered during the day, he continued, when occupants are at work or away on holiday.

"They walk in if the door is open, or else if it is locked, they break the glass and open the lock from the inside. The houses are never ransacked; they know exactly what they are looking for."

A policeman for 17 years and a detective for the past three years, Sergeant Robertson considers the case as one of the more difficult and serious cases he has encountered. To date, none of the stolen items have been recovered.

"We have to have the help of the public. If people know their neighbor is away, an eye should be kept with routine checks."

Neighbors are not as close as they used to be, continued the Sergeant, and thieves are readily able to take advantage of lack of supervision.

"One of our major problems lies with the identification of the goods taken. We are recommending householders to keep a list of stereos, television sets and other valuables with the model number, make, color and serial number written down."

The thieves generally strike in one particular area several times, before moving into a new area, according to Sergeant Robertson.

"Maybe every week for two or three weeks, they will hit one area, and then a month will go by before anything is done again," he said.

On Wednesday, Dec. 28 the thieves struck at an area home on Fourth Line, taking with them a stereo and television set.

"It was the work of the same group," confirmed the Sergeant, adding that police do have ideas of how the ring is operating.

"I really cannot tell you certain things we do know

controls how much water is flowing into the reservoir, had failed to shut off, causing the water to overflow. There is no alarm system here to warn anyone of the malfunction. An alarm system is in the works, but installation by Bell Canada has not been done.

After the switch was fixed, workers called the regional sand trucks from Milton, who came up and sanded the roads to avoid any possible accidents.

Water supply to homes was not affected as the trouble was spotted right away and workers arrived on the scene in less than 20 minutes.

## No grant: fire hall council views cited

By telephone, members of the Town Hall Restoration Committee learned that their request for a \$100,000 grant had been deferred until the town council shows more support.

The letter with the formal decision has now been received and reads as follows:

December 21, 1977

Mr. C. George Elliott, Chairman  
Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee  
76 Bower Street  
Acton, Ontario  
L7J 1E5

Dear Mr. Elliott:

At its recent meeting my Board of Directors considered your Committee's application for an Ontario Heritage Foundation grant of \$100,000.00 towards the rehabilitation of the Acton Town Hall. The request was discussed at some length, and it was decided to defer a decision until after the receipt of more information concerning the municipality's increased contribution to the project.

While my Directors commended your efforts to conserve this heritage property they recognized that the Town of Halton Hills, as the

owner, has the major responsibility for improving, managing and maintaining this facility. Unfortunately, the recent developments on the adjacent firehall site, coupled with the Town's rather modest financial role in this project would seem to indicate a none too substantial interest on the part of the municipality. Under these circumstances, provision of funding from the Ontario Heritage Foundation's limited resources would be somewhat difficult to rationalize.

However, my Directors expressed the sincere wish that the Town of Halton Hills will accept a much greater role in supporting this project, and if this proves to be the case then I will be glad to place the matter before them for reconsideration.

Sincerely,  
A.B.R. Lawrence  
Chairman

Water overflows New Year's Day

### Mayor pays bet

Mayor Tom Hill is not a man to welch on a bet. His secretary Cathy Bouskill found that out.

On December 31, the mayor paid off a \$50 bet made in September. The mayor bet she could not quit smoking from September to the end of the year. She did and plans to stay away from cigarettes from now on.

### Dogs kill fox test results soon

A fox, suspected of being rabid, was killed by a couple of dogs belonging to a Nassagaweya family on Boxing Day.

Results from tests by the Department of Agriculture, health of animals division, are unknown at press time.

Ralph Billings, of Nassagaweya Line Two, north of Sideroad 25, is sure the fox had the disease. Rabies works through the nervous system until it attacks the brain. The head of the fox was sent away for testing.

The fox came up to the Billings home and the two family dogs killed it about 9:15 p.m.

No humans were bitten by the fox, Mr. Billings said. The two dogs have had their rabies shots, he continued.

"The odds of them (the humans) contracting are pretty remote," Mr. Billings said.

Mr. Billings noted the fox carried porcupine quills in its nose and lips.

The attack took place on the Monday, and Mr. Billings stated that it was Wednesday before he got the government Department to answer its phone. He phoned the Halton Regional Police and others in an effort to determine if the animal was rabid.

### THE ROTARY CLUB presented Mauri Vallee, left, with a cheque for the Arthritis Society in the amount of \$2,315 last night. Gary Dawkins looks on while Mac Sprowl hands over the cheque.



THE ROTARY CLUB presented Mauri Vallee, left, with a cheque for the Arthritis Society in the amount of \$2,315 last night. Gary Dawkins looks on while Mac Sprowl hands over the cheque.