

Council will buy Hotchen's for parking



John Hogenbirk



Neale MacMillan



Linda Chaumont



Paula Kitching

Halton Hills is going to buy the former Hotchen's Bakery property for downtown Acton parking, from Paul Nielsen and Mike Kinal.

Monday council passed a by-law authorizing the purchase of the Hotchen Bakery land from the two downtown businessmen.

Councillor Walter Blehn objected to the purchase say-

ing he didn't think the town should be buying land for free public parking. He noted the town doesn't pay for plaza parking lots so why do it for downtowns?

He was joined by Councillors Roy Booth, Peter Morris and Pat Patterson in opposing the purchase.

At the same meeting merchant Ed Wood, who repre-

sented the Acton Business Association and Business Improvement Area, announced the BIA will convert the Hotchen land into a parking lot. He noted merchants support this plan unanimously.

Mr. Wood thanked council for its help in remedying parking problems in Acton. He said the Acton Business

Association is working in harmony with the BIA and Chamber of Commerce to promote Acton.

Business Improvement Area chairman Henry Stachyra was very pleased with the decision, he said Tuesday.

He had called a special meeting for Saturday night to prepare the B.I.A. proposal

for council. It was agreed unanimously then that the B.I.A. would undertake to provide the parking lot if the town purchased the Hotchen property. "We're united in it and we were willing to commit ourselves," Mr. Stachyra commented. "We still have to iron out a lot of things."

There will be further meeting to discuss details, such as

the assigning of the money from the sale of the pump house property. He was pleased at the final vote, when the Acton councillors and George Malby all favored the purchase.

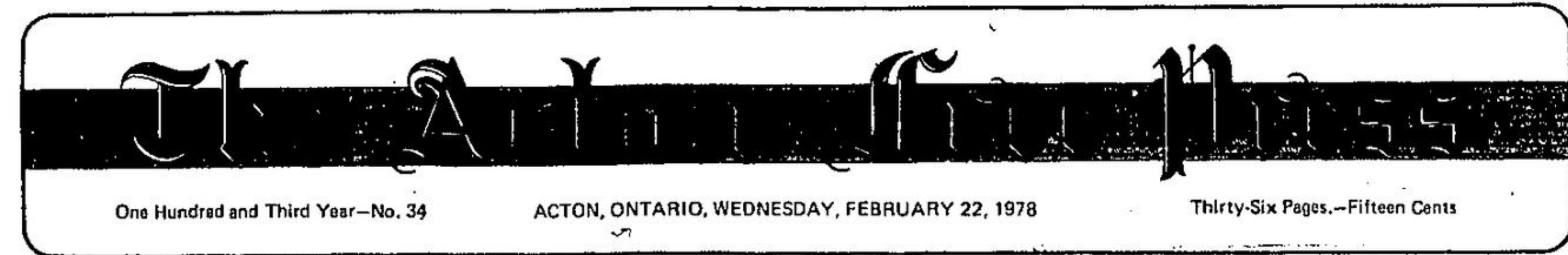
"We certainly can't expand the downtown without more parking," Mr. Stachyra stressed.

Parking authority member

Paul Nielsen has been trying to get more parking for Acton's downtown for 16 years. "This is really only the beginning," he commented Tuesday. "When people pull together things begin to happen."

He pointed out that there are other parking locations which can be made available at no cost to the municipality or merchants. If merchants in an area can put their land together, it can readily be turned into parking. Such lots could be behind the stores.

Commenting on the purchase of Hotchen's Mr. Nielsen said it is in a very important step in the right direction. "We're going to attract both development money from outside and from all the existing businesses," he said. "It'll be very important for the downtown."



Will lose \$4,000,000

Council kills proposal for uniform water rates

Kitching leads Ontario scholars

Paula Kitching lead the potential Ontario scholars at Acton high school last semester with 90.8 per cent, it was announced yesterday (Tuesday).

Mrs. Audrey Pendleton, secretary of student services at the school, explained that the students with over 80 per cent average in grade 13 cannot definitely be termed Ontario Scholars until the province okays the marks at the end of June.

Other potential Scholars are John Hogenbirk with 89.9 per cent, followed by Neale MacMillan with 84.7, Linda

Chaumont receiving 80.3 per cent, with David Finlay having 80 per cent.

Other secondary school honor graduates at the end of the fall semester were Kim Break, David Hannah, Sue Mellor, Jennifer Rowe, Matt Spehar and Sue Thompson.

Secondary school graduation diploma recipients were Karen Barber, Diane Drysdale, Ray Dunbar, Arnold Gordon, Bill Manes, Sharon McQuade, Charlene Percheschi, Maureen Rouse, Chuck Thibodeau, Susan Thomson, Karen Tuffin, and Heather Lindsay.

In spite of the offer of a \$4,000,000 provincial grant to do so, Halton Regional Council has refused to abandon the chargeback system.

The decision was interpreted by many councillors as a rejection of the spirit of regional government.

The chargeback system for water and sewer facilities precludes the benefit of using a wider assessment base. That had been proposed as one of the major advantages of regional government.

Under the chargeback system the region builds and maintains sewer and water lines and charges each municipality for any work done in that area.

While the legislation implementing regional government put control of

sewer and water at the regional level, the political control remains with the area councils.

A new system of charging for water systems, sewage systems and regional roads was advocated by Regional Chairman Ric Morrow and senior staff officials at the region. If it had been approved, the political control would have been shifted to the region from the area.

It was that shift in power base that brought opposition to the proposal.

The proposal would have seen a move towards uniform water rates, a sewer surcharge on the water bill to cover costs of the sewage system and an expansion of regional roads adding many miles of roads in the southern portion of the region. The change in the road system would have shifted a share of

the burden for roads from Oakville and Burlington to the north.

In an opening statement Wednesday, Regional Chairman Ric Morrow said the proposal would be a fairer way of assessing costs to ratepayers.

He argued that the proposal would move more towards a user pay system under the surcharge system.

Morrow had barely finished his opening statement when the proposal fell under heavy criticism from councillors. The heavy criticism set the tone for the meeting and it soon became apparent that the proposal was doomed to fail.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon said he liked the current system and saw no need to change it.

Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen attacked the proposal. He said the proposal wouldn't follow the user pay system, but would see Oakville pay for its own system and then have to pay more to help pay for sewer and water in Acton.

Treasurer Don Farmer acknowledged that the Acton system is too small to be viable, but argued that the amount Oakville or Burlington would have to pay

to assist Acton was negligible.

Burlington Mayor Mary Munro and Burlington Councillor Ben Ciprietti claimed the councillors hadn't been given sufficient information or proper documentation on which to base a decision.

Mrs. Munro attempted to have the whole question tabled early in the meeting, pending further information. "This is a useless, inefficient way of going about it," Ciprietti said.

The motion to table the report was defeated.

Milton Councillor Jim Watson acknowledged the proposal could help the two northern communities but he opposed it on the basis that Milton would lose control of the projects that were carried out there.

"I'd rather pay a taxi cab driver \$2 for a ride and go

EVERYBODY'S GETTIN' into the act: after all, there is no reason a woman can not be as good a carpenter as a man, so Carole Coy is giving it a try at the night school woodshop class held at the high school.



Fire victims' lives straightening around

Reconstruction has begun at Elissa Shoes this week after fire destroyed the back storage area, and smoke and water made the upstairs apartment and front store unuseable, on February 8.

Cory VanMerkestein is still in Georgetown hospital with back injuries following a fire which left his family

homeless and injured his wife and himself on February 10. The family was forced to jump from a second storey balcony. He injured two vertebrae in the jump.

Friends expect Mr. VanMerkestein to be out of hospital in a week's time. In the meantime, Mrs. VanMerkestein is staying with friends in town.

Pass lease

The bylaw incorporating the lease between the town of Halton Hills and Acton Y.M.C.A. passed without comment at council meeting Monday.

Some changes have been incorporated into the lease, which is for five years. Part of the building is rented by the municipality.

SCOUT AND GUIDE week was observed

deliciously by the girls of the Second Acton Company. Monday night at the Robert Little school the 30 girls in the group studied Germany and China as part of International Night. Gathered with Patrol Leader Cindy Pettibone

Wintario HRPC restates intent to move office in Acton

Halton Regional Police Commission Thursday reaffirmed its intent to move the precinct from Willow Street to Mill Street in Acton.

The commission passed a specific motion to enter into an agreement with Halton Hills concerning the change of offices.

The police want to move into the YMCA Building on Mill Street East. Commissioner Harry Barrett noted there are about eight vaguely-worded motions concerning the change of offices.

The confirmation was prompted by a one page report from police chief Ken Skerrett concerning the Y.M.C.A. facilities.

In my opinion the building would be adequate if the following conditions are met, Skerrett wrote. The 666 1/2 square feet of room would be adequate "if this area is self-contained and for our use only", he wrote.

Obstructing the entrance of

Just smoke

Where there's smoke there's fire? Not always. A resident reported billowing smoke to the fire department Sunday night. Firefighters searched to make sure, and found there was no fire.

B.A., B.I.A. elections joint annual meeting

The first of its kind, a joint meeting of the Business Association and the Business Improvement Area was held Wednesday of last week. Over 50 people gathered in the Dominion Hotel for dinner, elections and speeches.

New president of the Business Association is Ed Wood, replacing Alma Swetman who remains a director. Vice president is Wayne Ruse, secretary Art Cooper, treasurer John Bumstead. On the board of directors are Bill Lamberink, Grace Robertson, Barb Robinson and Mrs. Swetman.

Four present members and four new members were elected to the Business Improvement Area board. Returning are Bill Yundt, Terry Gwyer, Henry Stachyra and Ed Wood, with newcomers Wayne Ruse, Don Lindsay, Alec Johnson and Rick Devlin.

Paul Nielsen conducted the B.A. elections and John Bumstead the B.I.A. elections. Former president of the Chamber of Commerce Louis Charlebois chaired the entire evening.

Reporting for the Business Association, president Alma

Swetman said the group has accomplished a fair amount in less than a year. Highlight was the Back to Acton Days which will become an annual event involving even more of the community.

Books on small business may be borrowed through Linda Nelles. A brief was prepared on parking and representatives sent to a symposium on downtown cores. "I want to assure the coun-

cillors we plan a strong united voice," she said.

Incoming B.A. president Ed Wood assured his listeners they are on the threshold of exciting years. "We are on a recovery course."

Business people will play a vital role in the future. The B.A. executive will plan the balls, but the whole membership must keep those balls rolling, he declared.

Acton business community is more than the downtown core. All businesses are involved here. The Association will try to create a feeling of unity and community spirit. Mr. Wood urged business people to stop thinking just of themselves. To realize our dreams and aspirations requires your help, he challenged.

Sewage plant on schedule

Work on the \$1 million expansion to the sewage treatment is 82 per cent complete as of the end of December, according to the region director of public works Bob Moore. Figures for January's work are not yet available, he said.

"The new tanks can be operational any time now," he added. Final completion for the project is estimated at early summer.

Much of the remaining work can not be done until the frost is out of the ground, according to Mr. Moore.

Work is being done to expand the capacity of the plant to one million gallons per day from 625,000. Cost of the expansion is \$1,167,543, of which \$900,000 is fee, paid to Varamac, the contractor.

One delay in the work was caused by the late delivery of aeration tank devices. Because these were late, spray beds can not be finished until the weather breaks.

While workers wait for winter's end, indoor work will be done, including plumbing and painting.

Mr. Moore declared himself to be well satisfied by the contractor's work.

The plant, when done, will have four times the capacity it had in 1969, when it was late expanded. At the time it could handle 250,000 gallons of sewage a day.

Effluent treated at the plant is fed into Black Creek.



are some of the girls who will soon be sampling German filled pancakes, meatballs, pumpernickel bread, egg rools, vegetable chop suey and rice. They feasted again Tuesday at the huge banquet at the Legion.

Further reports on the Business Association and the Business Improvement Area inside today's Free Press. See page 5.

Kitchener man hurt

A Kitchener man was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital after he was hurt in a traffic mishap on Mill Street East Tuesday evening.

Jacob Kutz, of Kitchener, suffered a minor injury to his right ear when came into collision with an eastbound station wagon driven by Phillip Hotte of Oakville.

The mishap occurred about 7:15 p.m. near the town offices.

A Georgetown ambulance carried Kutz to hospital.

Kutz apparently was returning to his vehicle from the police office on Willow Street, where he had asked for directions to Georgetown.

Clear snow from hydrants town job

The town should be clearing snow away from fire hydrants Halton Hills council was told Monday night.

Councillor Peter Marks noted the fire department is urging residents to keep snow cleared away around hydrants in the event of a fire.

He asked who would do the job in cases where residents balked at the idea.

Both Mayor Tom Hill and Councillor Mike Armstrong said the town should be clearing snow away from hydrants and locations where it hasn't been done should be brought to the attention of the works department.

Wintario HRPC restates intent to move office in Acton

Normal Wintario grants are distributed on a 50-50 basis, with the grant supporting half the expense and the club applying matching the government funds. Capital grants, until January 1 of this year, were issued to recover funds already spent and covered only one third. As of January 1, these are no longer available.

Pool supervisor Liz Binsfeld reported she had been notified by mail yesterday morning of the approval. The recreation department had applied on behalf of the Lions who had supplied the funds for the improvements.

Acton Lions Pool and the Halton Hills Recreation department have received notice from Wintario that a capital grant they requested has been approved. The grant will cover one third of the costs of revamping the saunas.

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Obstructing the entrance of

Georgetown", Coons told the commission. In Georgetown parts of the linoleum were coming up from the floor and people were changing clothes as prisoners were brought in, he said. I want men to be proud, Coons said.

He pointed out the Y office needs a coat of paint.

Discussion also centered on the need for another bathroom in the Y. Barrett pointed out it is not a simple case of installing another washroom.

Under the labor relations act, you need two bathrooms, Barrett said. That is expensive in terms of space and dollars, he said.

The commission plans to have only an office girl plus a duty office in the office during the day. Other officers come and go. The town will have at least one permanent employee in the building.

I'm determined we're going to up grade the precincts, Coons said. We have to give the fellas a little sense of pride, he added.

More inside

Acton and Georgetown recreation co-ordinators will be swapping jobs, so they may get to know the needs and desires of the entire town, and to give them more valuable experience.

Anne Pickering, co-ordinator for Acton and Esquesing, will be holding the same job but for Georgetown. Karen

Karen King is new co-ordinator

King, Georgetown co-ordinator, will now be working in Acton. These changes take place March 13, 1978.

Both co-ordinators will keep in touch with groups in their former areas.

Glen Gray will remain as recreation director for the entire town.

Clear snow from hydrants town job

Both Mayor Tom Hill and Councillor Mike Armstrong said the town should be clearing snow away from hydrants and locations where it hasn't been done should be brought to the attention of the works department.



KAREN KING has been transferred from Georgetown to Acton as recreation co-ordinator.



ANNE PICKERING will become the recreation co-ordinator for Georgetown on March 13.

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