

# Government may aid B.I.A.s with loans

The exciting possibility of a government loan which would speed the projects of the Business Improvement Area was announced by B.I.A. chairman Henry Stachyra in his annual report Wednesday.

Mr. Stachyra and Ed Wood had attended a special meeting called by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism on January 26, the day of the big storm. There were six other B.I.A.s invited.

Mr. Stachyra told his listeners at the Dominion Hotel that changes to B.I.A. legislation were discussed and the most important topic was the question of funding for the B.I.A.s. The Ministry proposed to establish a fund which would be available to B.I.A.s and this money would be repayable to the province over 10 years at the interest rate of one per cent a year.

"We have taken the position that this assistance should be made available to those who need it most, and therefore should be limited to the smaller communities, with a population up to 30,000."

"We have insisted that in the case of a regional municipality such as Halton Hills,

distinct communities such as Acton and Georgetown be eligible for this program, even though the total municipal population may exceed 30,000.

"If these proposals become adopted, it would mean that a community like Acton could borrow something like \$100,000 and get most of the beautification and other programs completed in a short period of time... in one or two years. By doing the work quickly, there would be minimum disruption and inconvenience; it would be more economical and we would also avoid the costs of inflation. With a \$20,000 budget, this money would be repaid at \$11,000 a year over 10 years. This would still leave us \$9,000 a year for promotion and other activities."

"Bill C-361, which governs the operation of the B.I.A., states that, in the event of the dissolution of the Board of Management, the municipality shall assume all assets and liabilities of the board. Under these circumstances, it would be in the council's best interests to co-operate with the business community and to keep it viable in order

not to inherit something like a \$100,000 obligation. It would also call for a long term commitment from the business community, and that in itself would spur many people into some additional effort," Mr. Stachyra continued.

"In order to qualify for such a program, the Ministry considers it a pre-requisite that the municipality have an Official Plan. They will not spend money on something which may be bulldozed two years later. I understand that our Official Plan is now in the works. The Ministry also insists that the municipality have a standard of maintenance-by-law, because it would make no sense to spend money in an area, where the buildings are left to run down and deteriorate.

"It would seem like a case where God helps those who help themselves—so does the province. All that is left now is to convince our council to do likewise. It is important that we maintain and further develop our contacts with the Ministry so that we may provide our input and exert some influence on their decisions."



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT Area board of directors chairman Henry Stachyra outlined plans and aspirations of the coming year at the annual meeting of the B.I.A. and the Business Association last Wednesday.



KARL GONNSEN told listeners how parking is provided in Burlington. He was guest speaker at the joint annual meeting of the Business Improvement Area and the Business Association.

# Pitch made for Hotchen's

The proposed town purchase of Hotchen's Bakery site for parking could all fall through, councillor Peter Marks told assembled members of the Business Association and Business Improvement Area last Wednesday.

In a surprise announcement, he said the matter could end the following Monday (Jan 20) when council again considered the third reading of the bylaw.

Opposing councillors say the town is getting into an area of public expenditure

and the purchase would set a precedent.

Mr. Marks said it would be beneficial for the B.I.A. to say they would take responsibility for the demolition of the building and construction of the lot.

Parking Authority member Paul Nielsen made a spirited pitch for the B.I.A. to participate. "This sort of money for parking is dirt cheap," he declared. "It's a golden opportunity." Certainly if we aren't willing to develop the downtown there will be a plaza.

Paul Nielsen echoed guest speaker Karl Gonnson's interest in parking. Off-street parking has been recommended for Acton since 1939, he said, but over the years there have been selfish objections. He cited the Hotchen's bakery site as ideal for a cost of \$45,000 and declared he couldn't understand the objections to the proposal. "If we are going to survive it behooves us as a whole community to put more emphasis on parking in the future," he insisted.

The project is taking so long and getting nowhere, he commented.

Mike Kinal, one of three who purchased the building from the Hotchens, said "I invested \$14,000 for you so you'll be able to run a business." in 14 years through 12 transfers he has seen communities which closed their eyes to the need for parking. Now we have the opportunity to start... before it's too late.

The B.A. and B.I.A. executives and Paul Nielsen agreed to meet hastily to get input to councillors before Monday night's meeting of council.

# Parking's big in Burlington

The city of Burlington's interest in providing parking was outlined by guest speaker Karl Gonnson, a professional engineer on the city staff. He was guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Business Association and Business Improvement Area last Wednesday.

Parking was an important part of the revitalization of the downtown core of Burlington. He admitted the city had concentrated on parking to the detriment of other things. There is not yet a Business Improvement Area there, and promotion and beautification have been overlooked.

A downtown is oriented toward people and a mall toward the car, he observed.

The public works department looks after parking in Burlington on behalf of the merchants and there are two enforcement officers. Many of their spaces are metered and others rented. Some years there has been a deficit which was charged against the businesses in the area. The city purchased the land required.

There are plans underway for a parking garage to encourage development. He spoke of the Ontario Downtown Revitalization program, which sees provincial loans of two-thirds of the cost of capital costs of such projects to generate tax dollars. Repayment can extend over as much as 60 years.

The people must be brought downtown, he said, with entertainment as well as retail stores.

Dave Swetman thanked him, observing he showed Acton the way to go.

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# Leather theme, signs bypass—B.I.A. plans

Henry Stachyra gave an enthusiastic report on the accomplishments of the Business Improvement Area at the end of its first year.

Controversial issues included the town hall, Hotchen's and the BIA itself when the tax bills came out!

The board of management has done the groundwork and commissioned Anthrogram to do the revitalization study and implementation schedule.

The new sidewalks are completed and the next step is the beautification of Main St.

"One of the recommendations in our revitalization plan is the establishment of the leather theme. I have been told we have the largest tannery in the common-

wealth, yet we have no leather goods outlets."

The Leather Theme would naturally benefit the retail trade. A committee would be formed, probably of representatives of the leather industry, Chamber of Commerce and other interested people.

Noise and traffic congestion from trucks is getting worse all the time, Mr. Stachyra observed. He proposed a truck bypass as one of the most urgent requirements. Provincial assistance is available for traffic study if it is authorized by the local council. Assistance is also available for upgrading any local roads if they are designated as truck routes.

He also declared the need for welcoming entrance signs, and proposed another committee which would take this as its challenge: The B.I.A. would make a contribution on behalf of the merchants, and service clubs and industry would be approached.

We have all the resources... a wood treating plant, local artistic talent and contractor. "There is no reason we couldn't have the best signs in the province."

To carry out these and other projects he recommended another full budget of \$20,000. This would mean the levy for 1978 would be the same as in 1977.

"Since we are all business people, we know that all this cosmetic work must pay off. To this end it will be necessary for the B.I.A. and the Business Association to set up a well-planned and coordinated marketing and promotional strategy," Mr. Stachyra continued.

Uniform store hours are a good beginning. It is essential we become competitive with the plazas.

# John M. Mann dies in Guelph

Funeral service was held February 2 for John Moffatt Mann, who died January 31 in St. Joseph's hospital following a lengthy illness.

Mr. Mann lived in the Diplomat apartments, 128 Church St. He was born in Acton on February 27, 1909, the son of Janet Moffatt and George Mann. He attended Acton public school and high school and lived in town his entire life.

On July 26, 1941, Mr. Mann and his wife Mary were married in the Presbyterian Manse. He worked at Beardmore and Co. as a foreman in the Chrome department.

The funeral service was held at Shoemaker funeral

home, with the Rev. Andrew McKenzie officiating. Interment was at Fairview Cemetery. Pallbearers were Harry Norton, a friend, from R.R. 4 Acton, Fred Dawkins, a friend, 30 Brock St.; John Goy a niece's husband, Acton; George Ware, a nephew, from Erin; John Ware, nephew, of Guelph and Henry Leachman, a cousin from Rockwood.

Mr. Mann was predeceased by a brother Charles of Toronto, and a sister Marjorie, of Acton. He is survived by his wife Mary, sisters: Mrs. John T. Ware, 296 Mill St., and Mrs. Albert S. Ware, 295 Arthur Street.

# Residents told: keep water running

A Halton Region Water plan to lower water mains near the surface could not be completed before a cold weather set in, so residents of Bower Avenue have been advised to leave a tap running if they want to guarantee their pipes will not freeze.

Director of operations for the region water department Don Morrier emphasized this is a temporary measure only. The region plans to lower all services that have a history of freezing, but there are manpower and time restrictions.

"Only a certain number could be done this year," said Mr. Morrier.

"Our people approached a number of residences with a history of frozen services where we didn't have a chance to lower them. We told them if they wanted to be sure, keep some water running."

The region decided to lower the services after last winter when there were an exceptionally large number of frozen pipes.

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<b>IGA Pork Loin Roasts</b> \$1.19	<b>IGA Ice Cream</b> \$1.29	<b>IGA Hamburg or Wiener Buns</b> 39¢
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# CVCA look at new rules

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) deferred a decision which would rework its relationship with land division committees.

The executive committee, meeting at Meadowdale Friday, boiled down a four point motion concerning severances. The committee, however, wants the CVCA lawyer to check out the legalities.

Land Division committees ask the CVCA for comments about proposed severances, and the CVCA replies.

Under the four point scheme, if adopted, some new conditions may be attached to severances.

The points are 1) the establishment that the proposed severance contains sufficient land for a building. The maximum amount of land to be covered would be stated in each case. 2) The specifics of the construction site must be known before a building permit is issued, and also specifics must be registered on the title. 3) Re-consideration of the recognition that the lot is buildable will be made if a road widening occurs. And 4) that the above be registered on title.

These steps won't be of-

ficial until they are check by the solicitor, executive committee chairman Grant Clarkson said.

Let's think about it, and we'll get it back, he said.

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. As we abide with faith in Jesus and allow Jesus to have free access in our life so there will be an abundance of fruit.

John 15

Abiding is contingent with growth. Many have faith whereby to accept Jesus as Savior but is Jesus of such importance we would be a pure vessel with an inflow of divine knowledge which would bring a subsequent growth of temperance and endurance with the holiness of Christ radiating in kindness and divine love. Do you have a real and vital relationship with God making Jesus Christ your shepherd as well as Lord of your life?

As Jesus passes by what is your response?

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