

Residents try to save Leishman park land

With 45 signatures attached, a letter was taken Monday to Halton Hills offices opposing the rezoning of Leishman park so it could be sold as housing lots.

The letter stated "This is the first step in an attempt by the town of Halton Hills to unilaterally cancel a contract made by the town of Acton. This application was heard (by the Ontario Municipal Board) twice before."

"As it is not fair to require ratepayers to attend hearings repeatedly, we request that a subpoena be issued to the town of Halton Hills directing it to produce a copy of the decision of the Ontario Municipal Board on the last hearing; a copy of the Acton Free Press reporting the last hearing; abstract of title of the subject property; registered copy of the deed to the town of Acton with respect to the subject property; correspondence between the Ontario Municipal Board and the Town of Acton with respect to the plan of subdivision."

Nearby residents had met together with councillors and planning department representatives last Wednesday in the auditorium of the M.Z. Bennett school to discuss the change.

When some of the nearby residents first received notice of the proposed rezoning at the first of July, they contacted councillor Pat McKenzie who arranged the meeting. Not all the people within the 400 foot radius of the land had received notices, but these people were included in a subsequent mailing which announced the meeting.

The proposed rezoning was from Open Space Parks to Residential First Density. The intended change is contained in bylaw 77-67, enacted by council Sept. 7, 1977.

The deadline for objecting to the bylaw was Monday, July 17.

There were 22 nearby residents at the meeting which was chaired by councillor Peter Marks. Also attending were councillor Pat McKenzie, planner Mario Venditti and assistant planner Brian Kropf.

The people indicated they felt the land, on Mill S. East in the area of the McKenzie-Smith school, should be kept as park land.

Planner Venditti said the parkland is too small and isn't needed, since open space at the nearby McKenzie-Smith and M.Z. Bennett schools is available.

Mr. Marks explained the board of education now makes a strong effort to have school grounds used by public.

Mr. Kropf said the town decided in 1976 to sell unusable land.

Mr. Venditti said the sale of the Leishman park land would enable the town to buy parkland around Fairy Lake, opposite the new Senior Citizens housing project without debenturing money.

Leishman park could be divided into seven lots to be sold for an estimated \$20,000 each, for a total of at least \$140,000. He said the land at Fairy Lake would add to a greenbelt through the town.

Mr. Venditti also said any money from the sale of Leishman park would have to go toward park purposes.

John Leishman donated the south half of the present area to the town for parkland in 1946. In the 1960's, Mr. Kropf related, the town purchased the north half of the present land to give the property its present size.

Overtures have been made over the years to the old Acton council to maintain and

beautify the area, and residents have previously volunteered to do the work themselves and said they were prepared to have a tax levy on their taxes to finance its maintenance.

Two Ontario Municipal Board hearings ruled in favor of the residents who opposed redesignating the park. The first O.M.B. hearing was on Nov. 9, 1964 and second on Jan. 3, 1968.

It was felt that the school grounds could be closed to the public at any time, and the area would be without park land.

Mrs. June McHugh recalled the residents past efforts to maintain the parkland.

Ross Knechtel, also speaking for ratepayers, said open space is precious.

Residents had 21 days to file their objections, which they subsequently did.

Council has the option of re-considering the bylaw for rezoning or sending the comments and bylaw to the OMB for a third hearing.

Hinton's store ends 50 years of business

After 50 years in business in Acton, H. H. "Bert" Hinton is liquidating his stock. Hinton's 5 cent to \$1 store has been an important part of the downtown business community for five decades.

Mr. Hinton is selling all his stock, the sale beginning yesterday (Tuesday). He will be leasing the store to a franchised Stedman dealer. The agreement is not yet finalized.

Hours are being extended for the final sale. The store is now open Mondays through Saturdays inclusive and Thursday and Friday evenings.

Stock and fixtures are all for sale, Mr. Hinton explains. He hopes the sale will be over by the end of August, to let Stedman's have the store for September. Then it could be reopened in October, in good time for Christmas business.

Mr. Hinton remarks that he has worked hard to make sure the town still has a variety store of this kind, which is always needed. "I have persisted and taken less to provide this kind of store," he said Monday. "I have a duty to do that, and to provide continuity for the staff."

His concern is that the new

Stedman dealer will not stock textiles.

Mr. Hinton's father came to Acton from Toronto in 1924, and started in business. He went to Georgetown in 1929 where he bought out Floyd's jewellery store. Bert took over the business from his father in 1929, at its present location. It was Soper's store before becoming Hinton's, with the Foresters' lodge upstairs. Before that, it was Henderson's store. His father bought the business from Mr. Soper. The property originally belonged to the Adams family, the first settlers here.

Mr. Hinton, who is a school board trustee, will remain in Acton.



REV. LEO SPEAGLE is the new pastor at St. Joseph's Catholic church. Rev. Speagle says he has found Acton to be a warm, friendly town. He has transferred to Acton from Hamilton.

Surfacing

Churchill Rd. N. is being surfaced treated from the curling club up to the Erin border.



GOOD HAY, poor corn. Two months of fine dry weather have enabled farmers to remove a good hay crop but drought is stunting corn and grain crops. Just another "you can't win" story for the poor farmer.

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Farmers never saw land so dry

According to local farmers, the drought currently being experienced by Southern Ontario farmers is every bit as bad as news reports are making it.

Some lifelong residents who have lived in the area 50 years or more, say they have never seen it so dry.

Lucinda Freeman of H.R. 2 Acton doesn't remember a time when the crop was entirely lost but says she's never seen anything like this. She and husband Frank are retired farmers who have spent their lives around Acton. They remark that they have never seen the large dry dead patches

in fields of hay and grain such as there are this year.

"People are beginning to worry about it—the grain and corn won't be much and there won't be a second cut of hay", she comments.

Frank Anthony, agri-business man from Limehouse who cash-crops over two thousand acres, says the situation is nearly critical and is the worst he's seen for three or four years. He explains the reason the two month dry spell is causing havoc with crop growth is the lateness. Last year's dry spell in April and May didn't affect seed in

the ground as badly as the current drought is affecting half-grown crops. Even a four-day rain will not save crop growth now, Anthony thinks.

The extremely wet fall last year forced many farmers to complete plowing in the spring of this year thus drying out the ground more than normal. Also, early damp cold weather in April delayed spring planting about two weeks.

Anthony says, even though corn seed in present use is bred for drought tolerance, the yield will be down and the spring grain

crop will only be a fraction of what it should be.

Other local farmers are unanimous in their agreement the drought is a bad one and causing many problems although no one can remember a complete crop failure.

But it's an ill wind that blows nobody some good. The fine dry weather has been a boon for the hay crop. Early rains produced luxuriant growth, followed by fine weather to remove cut hay for storage. Although farmers agree it's unlikely a second hay crop in August will amount to much, the first looks good.

Police nab pair for Royal heist

Surveillance by Halton Regional Police at a trailer camp near town resulted in the arrests last week of a man and a woman in connection with the armed robbery at the Royal Variety store.

Charged are Stephen William Jones, 18, and Cindra Elizabeth Kirby, 20, both of no fixed address. Police say they believe the pair lived at North Bay for a time and before then at Oakville.

Kirby was released on her own recognizance. Jones is in the Toronto West Detention Centre. They are to appear in provincial court at Milton July 31.

The Royal Variety, on Queen Street, was held up moments before the 11 p.m. closing time July 8 by a woman and a man wielding a 10-inch knife. They got away with a bag filled with between \$300 and \$500 in cash from the till.

According to police most of the money is spent.

The police surveillance was handled by Sergeant Keith Roberson and constables Bruce Richards, Jan McNally and Ron Welsh of the District One Investigative Services plus uniformed constables Alex Fishbein and Mike Pignatelli.



ACTON OPTIMIST CHARTER president Bill Chagnon, left, accepts the club's charter from Ontario District Governor Bob Wahby during the installation of members and charter presentation dinner Saturday evening at the Legion.

Back to Acton Days get favorable report

A meeting called to make early plans for next year's Back to Acton Days celebrations Wednesday night was sparsely attended. Present in the Community Services Centre were organizers and participants Ed Wood, Terry Grubbe, Celia Saxon, Bill Chagnon and Bob Hart, with two reporters.

Ed Wood was in charge of the three-day production with Mrs. Grubbe directing the parade. Optimist president Bill Chagnon and vice president Bob Hart were involved in the bike rodeo, and promised more participation next year. The Saxon family were clowns.

Purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm participants for suggestions for next year, and to compile complaints.

It was agreed that only one highway should be closed off, with the exception of the time required for parades to cross. It was also recommended that events be spread further down Mill St. toward the Station Hotel.

There could be more contests and games in this area as well as booths.

Since July 1 is a Sunday next year, there is an alternative of dates for the parade, mall and park events. No recommendations were made yet.

Ed Wood said if the stores were open on the day of the events on the mall, there would have to be more community participation. He and his wife Pat, as well as other merchants, ran some of the events.

Lack of a street dance for young people was cited as a major drawback. It was felt the Mug organizers and other young people should be contacted for advice.

The Lions were reported very happy with their bingo, and the firefighters with their crown and anchor game.

Mrs. Grubbe said parade organizers thrilled with the

response, which brought almost 500 people downtown in three spontaneous calithumpian parades.

A flea market was suggested, along with private garage sales downtown the days of the event. A place for minding children was also suggested.

Optimists Chagnon and Hart thought their membership would be interested in children's rides and games. He said their bike rodeo

Town wants same rates over Region

Halton Hills council is all in favor of uniform water rates across Halton Region, but the other municipalities may not go along.

Monday night council voted to endorse the treasurer's report advocating uniform rates.

Treasurer Ray King said from all points of view, administrative, legislative and financial, it made sense to have one rate.

The treasurer's report emphasized there is a need for increases in water rates all over the region in order to cover costs and eliminate deficits. It said uniform water rates would benefit Acton significantly, and Georgetown to a lesser extent.

The report said existing water rates are inadequate, and if uniform water rates are not introduced a substantial increase would be

necessary. It pointed out an increase may be necessary in any event.

The report stated uniform water rates with a larger base to share capital costs would produce more stability in future rates.

The treasurer pointed out if uniform water rates are agreed upon by the region by the end of this year, provincial grants of \$900,000 would be available over the next five years.

Councillor Russ Miller asked if the other municipalities are recommending uniform rates.

The treasurer said he understood they have not yet endorsed the idea, but said the final vote will be made by regional council.

Councillor Mike Armstrong termed the report excellent, and said "This is the way to go, that's what regional government is all about."

Kidproof your pool

The staff at the Acton indoor pool has just recently started a program to "kidproof" your private outdoor pool. Demonstrations can be conducted in pool safety reaching and emergency procedures. There is no charge for the demonstration which can be done right in your own back yard. For more information see "Splash Flashes".

Police looking for pair

Halton Regional Police are on the lookout for two youths who broke into the Zeigler Flour Mill, on Mill Street West, Friday afternoon.

The pair escaped from the mill after they were caught by the owner.

One youth is described as being 150 pounds, five foot six inches in height with blonde hair, a round face and heavy build. The other youth is five feet, five inches in height with dark hair and a slim build. His age is placed at between 13 years and 14 years.

Trio nabbed at arena

Halton Regional Police caught three youths who broke into the community centre arena last week.

The trio pulled boards off a locked door and climbed in through the hole.

Firefighter washes road

Acton volunteer firefighters were called out only once this week, to a leaky car gas tank on Mill St.

One firefighter was sent to the scene to wash down the road.



TIM TYHURST, R.R. 2, GEORGETOWN, waits in the back of the canoe while instructor Lynda Shadbolt shows Anthony Saxon of Acton how to use the paddle correctly during the Leaders in Training session last week at Acton's Fairy Lake. The LIT program is run by the town's recreation department. Jock Garton, of Acton, steadies the canoe.

Pledge campaign set for fall fair time

A Wintario grant application and a pledge campaign were reported to Halton Hills Council in a letter from the Town Hall Restoration committee last week.

The letter was received and filed without comment from councillors.

Accompanying the letter was a financial statement of the listing income of \$5,980.14, expenses of \$5,283.60, outstanding debts of \$1,282.27, leaving a deficit of \$565.73.

The letter stated: "Following refusal of the Ontario Heritage Foundation to contribute any funds to the restoration of Acton Town Hall unless the Municipality also contributed, the Committee considered what alternative sources of funds might

be approached. In addition some fund raising projects have been undertaken to help clear the indebtedness incurred in carrying out the feasibility study."

"The Committee has submitted an application to Wintario requesting \$52,000, which is one half of the cost of restoring the exterior of the building. No reply has been received as yet from Wintario."

"A campaign to secure pledges for the matching \$52,000 required will commence in the first weeks of September. A publicity program is in progress and will continue during the summer. Although the pledge campaign has not begun the Committee already has in

hand pledges for \$4,500 which were received without solicitation."

"Application has also been made for a Charity Registration Number so donations made will be deductible on Income Tax."

"It is hoped the pledge campaign will peak at Fall Fair time when the Committee expects to have a booth for information, sale of Town Hall mementos, and receiving pledges. The results of the pledge campaign and the Wintario application should be known by the end of October. The Committee expects it can easily meet the Dec. 31 deadline set by Council for the Committee's final report."