

Acton volunteers keep Red Cross healthy

A handful of people in Acton are fighting desperately to keep the Red Cross alive in town. By this fall, their battle hopefully, will be rewarded when they become an official branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Henry Kroes, of Arthur St., has been made unofficial chairman of the Acton and District Red Cross group. He explains that now, the Acton group works in conjunction with the Georgetown branch. He hopes to change that by fall. However, much work remains to be done.

Although it is not an official branch, the local group of volunteers has set up a well organized, well run system to come to the aid of individuals or several victims of a disaster within ten minutes.

Anna Arnold and Jean

Jackson have set up a minor disaster routine in which they are able to come to the aid of fire victims or other disasters not involving a great deal of people.

So far, the minor disaster group has only been needed once, for a burned out family last winter. At that time, the family members were taken to Zellers in Georgetown, where the Red Cross has an account to pick a complete set of clothing "from inside out". However, Zellers donated clothing for the one case last winter.

Major disaster operations are currently being set up. This would be implemented in the case of hurricane, flood, etc. Bruce Hayward and Mary Landerkin have been busy locating and arranging use of large buildings to be opened to

victims in the case of emergencies. They have arranged for such buildings as the Legion, the curling club, churches and the library to be available.

Also notified of the plan are local grocery stores, who have volunteered food in such disasters, the local CB radio club and heavy equipment. Clothing stores have also volunteered to come to the rescue if needed.

The loan cupboard, to date, is perhaps the most used service of the local Red Cross group. Many items useful to the temporarily handicapped, through illness or operation, etc., are available free of charge. Items included are commodes, bedpans, canes, crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, mattresses, etc.

Anne Looyenga, in

charge of the cupboard, says that in 1978 there were 44 loans out to local people. The most commonly borrowed item was the wheelchair taken 11 times. Hospital beds were used twice.

Mrs. Looyenga says she will deliver any piece of equipment needed. Three months is the maximum time allotted to each item. Although it is mainly individuals who call, sometimes, she says, the Halton Hills Home Care Unit or the Health Clinic will call upon their services.

Individual emergency aid is also quite useful to local residents. Mrs. B. Ramsden heads this service, which provides transportation to Toronto or other centres where specialists are located. There are three to four volunteer drivers, according to Mr. Kroes,

who give their time to take sick people to doctors.

Blood donor clinics are a vital service offered by the Canadian Red Cross Society. In Acton, there are usually three to four clinics a year, with the blood received going immediately to Toronto for operations or accident victims. Much work goes into the clinics by both local volunteers and Red Cross staff.

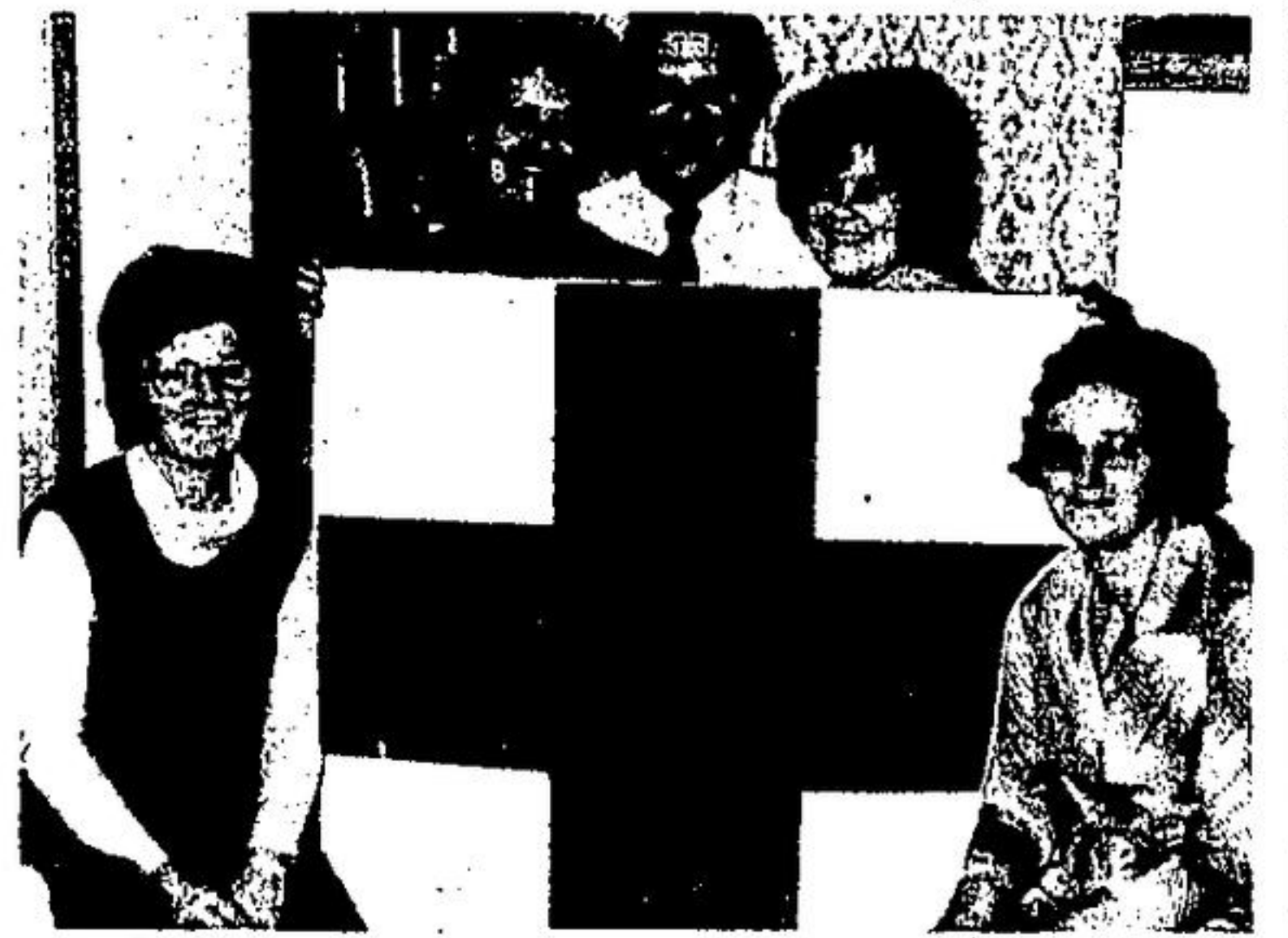
The next clinic is March 13 at the Acton Legion. Not every one is eligible to give blood, either due to past diseases, drugs in the system, or weight or age restrictions. However, everyone is eligible to receive blood. Those who are able to give the gift of life, are encouraged to do so.

Whether it be the minor or major disaster ser-

VICES, or the loan cupboard or the blood clinics, all the services need money to exist. Some donations are made when someone makes use of the service, but mainly financing is through the annual fundraising drive, which kicks off tomorrow (Thursday).

No one can say they will never need the services of the Red Cross. The society is only called upon in an emergency or when someone is sick, unplanned events which can happen to anyone. Donations, no matter how large or small are appreciated.

Organization is the key to any volunteer group. The Acton Red Cross group "have their act together" and want to serve the town. More volunteers are welcome.



Acton Red Cross Volunteer workers are striving to make their group an independent branch of the Ontario Red Cross, rather than an arm of Georgetown, as they now are. Some of the volunteers gathered at the home of Henry Kroes recently to discuss their direction. Front, Anne Looyenga and Alice Schreiber and, back row, Anna Arnold, Mr. Kroes and Helen McLean.

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Judge hands out rare maximum sentence

An unusual maximum jail sentence was levied by provincial court Monday on an Acton man convicted of dangerous driving.

Provincial Court Judge Douglas Latimer said it is on rare occasion when the maximum time in jail is used. He sentenced Leslie Winter at Milton to six months in jail plus two years on probation. Also Mr. Winter's licence to drive is suspended for 33 months.

Society cannot accept someone consuming alcohol and drugs and then that same person getting behind the wheel of a vehicle, Judge Latimer said.

Mr. Winter was convicted earlier this month and was held in custody until a presentence report was written. Judge Latimer took into consideration Mr. Winter spent almost a month in jail before sentence.

During evidence given February 8, Mr. Winter told the court he blacked out after he started his car on Main Street October 21. Immediately before he had been drinking beer and earlier in the day he smoked two

marijuana cigarettes. There was also evidence of other drugs in Mr. Winter's body.

The car mounted the curb in front of Ed's In-N-Out, struck a pedestrian, Karen Cooper, and dragged her. The vehicle also turned left on Church Street, threw the 19-year woman clear, then pinned a man against a parked truck.

The woman suffered a broken ankle, scrapes and bruises and a 20-stitch cut to the back of the head. The man was only bruised.

"The court does not accept that you blacked out," the judge told Mr. Winter. Judge Latimer continued by saying he thought deterrence is essential.

Defence counsel Robert Leschied told the court the matter was not one of wilful disregard. Leslie Winter's father John Winter told Judge Latimer he was able to get a three-week leave of absence for his son from Building Products of Canada Ltd. The company, he said, is willing to take his son back to work. Mr. Winter worked at the Acton company, for

17 months, a term which defence counsel Leschied said is some accomplishment for a 19-year-old.

Mr. Winter disputed the finding in the presentence report which indicated he showed no remorse regarding the incident. Lawyer Leschied said his client is concerned for what happened.

Mr. Winter senior told the court he is willing to keep his son and put him through school if necessary. "He's learned his lesson while being at the detention centre. I don't think he wants to go back," Mr. Winter said.

Mr. Leschied said there had been efforts to resolve the difficulties at home. The client, he said, also has indicated a desire to return to work. Mr. Leschied indicated he wanted intermittent incarceration and probation so Mr. Winter could keep his job.

Crown Prosecutor Larry Owen called upon the court to levy the maximum sentence possible. He called the facts of the case "nothing less than atrocious."

Back-to-Acton Days passes to Chamber

The more things change, the more they stay the same—almost.

Downtown merchants, for example, who nearly two years ago split from the Chamber of Commerce (C of C) to form the Acton Business Association (ABA) are returning to the fold.

With them they bring the Back-to-Acton Days promotion and its call-thumpian parade. C of C president Jake Kuiken said Saturday the parade, which drew hundreds of residents downtown, will definitely be headed up again. Efforts are being made to form an organizing committee. He also said there will be, as before, a public meeting to draw support.

Mr. Kuiken also said the return of the ABA merchants will strengthen the Chamber.

The ABA started the Back-to-Acton Days and drew upon the community, service clubs, residents, the Chamber and the Business

Improvement Area (BIA) for support.

The last ABA chairman, Ed Wood, said he is happy to see the group return to the Chamber. "It seems a better idea to put it under one roof." He resigned in July after the second Back-to-Acton Days.

Two years ago March 8, 22 merchants broke ranks with the Chamber because they thought the C of C's retail section was not doing its job. Also there were complaints of a lack of communication.

The chamber urged the retailers to remain, but they soon set up an executive and struck committees of their own.

The ABA was to be an information source and forum on business. Also it was to co-ordinate and plan, regularly, promotion and advertising programs. The recent weakness to make regular promotions, according to some members, contributed to the return to the chamber.

The ABA however, was

never too distant from the C of C or the BIA. There was a joint BIA-ABA committee on promotion and advertising. Also one of the suggestions in an early ABA meeting was that the association become a member of the chamber so that ABA members could also belong to the chamber.

The approximately \$700 in ABA funds will go into a special retail account for promotions, according to Mr. Wood.

The lack of communications which, according to the ABA, marked the Chamber two years ago, has improved, according to Chamber president Kuiken. The lack of communication within the ABA is seen by members as its main failure.

One of the features of a C of C is that it is chartered, and will therefore continue even if interest lapses. Also a chamber has affiliation with a federal C of C.

Another factor in the decline of the ABA is the failure to replace lost key members. Founding chairman Marilyn Ottaway left town to go out west, finance chairman John Bumstead is no longer manager at the local Toronto-Dominion Bank, while Art Cooper and Wayne Ruse are no longer in business.

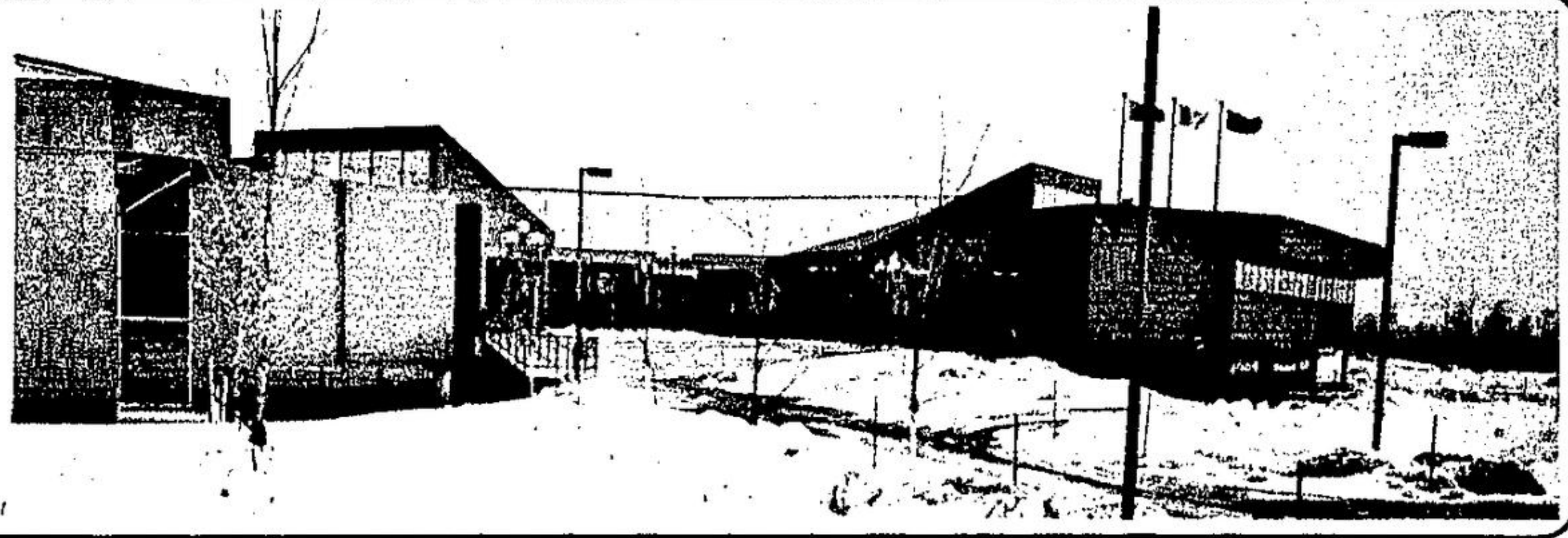
Yes, there are new people in town, but there does not seem to be much interest, Mr. Wood said.

The return is denied to be an attempt to present, by downtown business men, a more unified front to plaza development.

Paul Nielsen, chairman of the C of C's retail section when the ABA formed, will probably resume those duties.

Green, green and more green

Halton's remedy for the winter blahs is the color of the new Regional Headquarters in Oakville. The building's architect Dennis Peters says people need all the bright colors they can get to cheer them up over long winter months.



—Photo by Burlington Post

Developer will appeal

Planning Board turns down plaza

Plaza developer Jerry Sprackman says he will launch an appeal to the

Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to force Halton Hills' hand in favor of a

90th birthday celebrated Sun.

More than 40 people attended an open house to honor Frances Finnermore on her 90th birthday Sunday.

Mrs. Finnermore was born in Bristol, England February 27, 1889, and came to Canada when she was in her early 20's. For many years she lived in Toronto, until her husband's death, when she went to live with her daughter Edna Gordon.

In 1958, the Gordon's moved to Acton, and Mrs. Finnermore began making her local friends. She enjoys sewing and

ecuhre and is an active member of the Golden Age Club.

The open house was held at granddaughter Lynn Fountain's McDonald Ave. home, where family and friends came to wish the birthday girl well.

Mrs. Finnermore has two daughters, Edna (Mrs Art) Gordon, Acton, and Marjorie (Mrs Art) Desjardine, Port Perry, and one son George of Islington. She also has seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

shopping centre along Acton's eastern border. Halton Hills planning board last night (Tuesday) voted 8-0 in favor of keeping the rural land plaza-proof. The decision comes in the wake of a public meeting in which most of about 300 people voted in favor of Mr. Sprackman's proposal.

"We're gonna go to the OMB and we're gonna win," Mr. Sprackman told the press after the meeting. The result was what he expected, but not what he wanted. The public meeting at Acton High School earlier this month was called a farce by Mr. Sprackman because councillors did not pay attention to the people who indicated favor with his plan.

"Absolutely unbelievable," was Mr. Sprackman's description of planning board's de-

cision. "I don't understand how the planning department and councillors can face the people of Acton."

Tuesday night's decision was the third denial by town planning authorities.

A consultant who spoke in favor of the Sprackman development, Henry Joseph, said the decision was "a railroad job."

Mr. Sprackman's proposal called for the rezoning of about six acres in the south-east corner of Highway 7 and Churchill Road South. He would like to build a Zehrs food store, plus eight other stores, on the land, now zoned rural.

Town planner Mario Venditti recommended denial of the Sprackman proposal because the official plan does not include such a proposal and the bid is therefore deemed premature. The

proposal is premature also "due to the lack of a planned population base to support the application and due to a possible impact on the Acton urban area's commercial infrastructure."

The size of the first Sprackman proposal was some 8.7 acres. It was reduced by nearly three acres, with the remainder to be held for later development.

Acton councillor Ross Knechtel was the only elected representative to speak and he was in favor of the planner's recommendation. Even with the reduced amount of land for development, Councillor Knechtel said he still thought Sprackman would have a licence to exploit 8.7 acres.

While he is "not fussy with the grocery shopping" in Acton, Councillor Knechtel said he "didn't like the price"

that would have to be paid in terms of land for a Zehrs food store.

Councillor Ed Wood, a downtown merchant, declared a conflict of interest, while Acton's third representative, Les Doby, remained silent.

The ten people who addressed planning board were split on the subject.

Lloyd Sankey, R.R. 4 Acton, was one of the few speakers not at the earlier public meeting at the school. An architect who performed much of the revitalization of Collingwood, Mr. Sankey briefly outlined what he saw as the possibilities of developing Acton's core.

Mr. Sankey said the town needs about 100,000 square feet—all of which can be downtown. One place would be in the IGA Store—Dominion Hotel area, including the farm at the rear. A second spot

would include the railway, Foodland and Force Electric properties.

The Business Improvement Area (BIA) has so far carried out cosmetic work, Mr. Sankey said. "What's needed is surgery."

BIA spokesman Paul Nielsen revealed—without names—there are plans for an amalgamation of two of the grocery stores downtown.

Mr. Joseph, speaking in favor of the plaza said that in Bolton, where Mr. Sprackman has a plaza, the downtown IGA store upgraded its facilities and the Red and White is doing fine.

June O'Rourke also spoke in favor of the Sprackman proposal by indicating there is much evidence of townspeople shopping elsewhere. Because the people are in favor of the plaza, a reference to the public meeting, Mrs. O'Rourke said she felt council would be in favor, too.

"We all know there is no room for large stores downtown," she said.

Other speakers were Jack Carpenter, Bill Yundt, John Coniglio, Mrs. Finley and Walter Fosbury.

"If you (councillors) can just sit down and turn those people down, I'll never understand it," Mr. Sprackman said.

Corridor not needed?

Announcement of cut-backs in Ontario Hydro's building program may mean there is no need for a high transmission corridor through Halton Hills, according to Julian Reed (MPP Halton-Burlington).

Ontario Hydro has announced that because

of over forecasting the growth rate of electric power demand some plants may be moth-balled or even cancelled and among them would be Bruce Nuclear Generating Station B, which is planned to provide power for shipping through a 500 kV line through Halton

Hills.

"If Bruce B is cut out, Reed said in an interview Monday, there'll be no demand for more corridors. The power now there is already getting out."

And even if Bruce B was to go ahead, Reed added, "there's still four

years of time for an independent study."

"There's all kinds of time," Reed said.

He said that an official announcement on Bruce B and Burlington Nuclear generating station is expected March 12.

Regional councillors vote selves 5% increase

Milton opposed the raise regional councillors voted themselves Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Mayor Don Gordon said he and Councillors Bill Johnson and Gus Goutouski voted against the proposal because it wasn't consistent with the town's own policy.

Milton Council last week voted itself an increase, effective Dec. 1, 1979.

The region's five per cent increase is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1979.

The five per cent increase is based on a formula devised by Burlington.

It is based on a percentage equal to the lowest percentage increase of three indexes: the national consumer price index, the industrial composite of average weekly wages and salaries index,

and an index based on the pay of 12 typical regional job classifications.

Mr. Gordon said the formula is excellent because it removes the politics.

He said he would suggest it to Milton council.

Regional councillors were scheduled to receive a nine per cent increase based on a motion they approved last year which tied regional councillors' salaries to the consumer price index.

The increase which was approved, gives regional councillors \$9,974, an increase of \$563 over \$9,411.

Regional chairman Jack Raftis' salary is increased to \$27,700, an increase of 10 per cent. It is the first increase for the regional chairman in two years. It had been \$25,000 per year.

Mr. Johnson said in debate he was against the increase because he knew what a regional councillor's salary was when he ran for the position and didn't expect to get any extra.

Oakville Councillor Laurie Mannel opposed the increase, but only because the new formula was a rejection of the old one.

Burlington Councillor Walter Mulke-wich replied voters are concerned about restraint. The new motion reduced the increase by four per cent.

He said councillors are simply amending a policy which is in effect. Halton Hills Councillor Ed Wood also opposed the five per cent increase.

"I personally can't justify an in-

crease," he said.

Although the region had embraced his city's formula for raises, Burlington Mayor Roly Bird said he would like to have seen the proposal referred to the administration and finance committee.

Mr. Raftis said, "Because of restraint, we decided to keep it (the increase) under six per cent."

He said it was not valid to allow councillors' salaries to get too far back because the increase would be large in future years.

He justified the increase, saying the buying power of a dollar had weakened.

The new amounts approved chairman and councillors are two-thirds salary and one-third expenses.

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90 years young
Frances Finnermore celebrated her 90th birthday Sunday with friends and family visiting.