

## Closure rumors denied by Disston

Rumors of a permanent plant shut-down, at Disston Canada Inc., throwing over 110 people out of work, have been denied by the plant's union president Ken Swan.

The rumors started after the employees had been informed R. Hoe and Co. Inc., one of the oldest saw manufacturers of the United States had made a bid to purchase part of Disston's Canadian production facilities for wood working tools.

The American firm has had a solid interest in the Canadian market for more than a century, according to Robert Corrao, president of R. Hoe and Co. "Production facilities in Canada would bring us closer to this important market."

It will take months before everything is finalized, says Disston public relations officer G.E. Jansson. "The bid, in all its detail, will be subject

to the approval of the requisit Board of Directors, FIRA, and other relevant federal authorities."

Mr. Jansson told The Acton Free Press it is not known at this time whether the purchase of part of the company would affect the Acton plant in either creating more jobs, or letting people go.

Workers at the plant however, are concerned the purchase means the closing of lines while the new owners take the work to their American plants.

Mr. Swan told the Free Press there was no indication of this happening, and the employees had merely been told of the possible purchase of part of the company.

Disston Canada Inc. has plants in Canada, United States and several other countries, Mr. Jansson, who works out of Mississauga, said.



Station Hotel squad has "pull"

Acton Bulldogs pull their hearts out at the Speyside Highland Games in Georgetown Saturday. Spectators came from all over Ontario to thrill to 22 pipe

bands, nearly 400 dancers, caber tossers, stone stagers, and rope pullers.

## Centre saved town gives \$990 grant

Acton Community Services Centre will receive an additional \$1,980, if Halton Hills council goes along with a recommendation made by general committee last night.

Only \$990 will come from the town. The other half will come from regional council, who called the town's bluff.

Last month town council, who previously cut the Acton Community Services Centre grant, sent a motion to the region saying they would consider increasing the grant by \$990 if the region would match it.

Councillors Harry Levy, Pat Patterson and Roy Booth admitted the motion had been tongue-in-cheek with little thought the region would agree. "We're hoisted on our own petard," commented Booth.

Councillor Ed Wood put forward the motion to give the supplementary grant in view of the region's decision. He praised the work of the service saying they covered an extremely wide range of needs.

"Where will the money come from?" asked Councillor Mike Armstrong, pointing out there is only \$200 in the grant's budget.

Treasurer Ray King replied it could only come from the \$50,000 contingency fund.

Armstrong pointed out the region's approval was given subject to the town's approval.

Levy refused to go along with the increase, claiming the grant reduction had not been done lightly. He warned the door would be opened to other groups whose grants had been reduced or cut out altogether.

"We gave \$10,000 to the Interested Citizens Group to fight hydro," commented Armstrong. "This is peanuts."

Councillor Russ Miller argued the town had been advocating grants for social services should be the responsibility of the region, and suggested a shared grant now could lead to the region assuming the responsibility in the future.

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## Halton accepts land banking

Burlington councillors successfully convinced Halton to enter the land banking business.

At regional council in Oakville Wednesday, June 6, all but three councillors voted in favor of adding \$2.3 million to the 1979 capital budget for land banking.

Opposing were Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson, Milton Mayor Don Gordon and Oakville Councillor Laurie Mannell.

Burlington Councillor Joan Allingham and regional Chairman Jack Raffis who is from Burlington were the main proponents.

Mrs. Allingham said Burlington's land bank had realized a profit of \$1.1 million and had attracted jobs.

"We would be terribly short-sighted to take it out," she said.

Burlington Mayor Roly Bird suggested the motion as did the rest of his council.

Mr. Bird said the land banking would not affect

Halton taxpayers.

Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy asked Mr. Bird whether Halton Hills could depend on Burlington's support when the issue of sewer surcharges came up. In return, Halton Hills would support the motion.

Mr. Bird declined Mr. Pomeroy's offer, saying Halton Hills would have to take its chances with the sewer surcharge.

Mr. Gordon, who opposed regional land-banking, said every

developer in the region would try to sell land.

"I believe in private enterprise," he said.

"Let private enterprise purchase the land and we can rezone it for industry."

Mr. Anderson said he opposed the motion because, "We don't know what we're getting into."

Mr. Mannell said his opposition was based on Oakville's experience.

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Participants in the high school's Total Immersion Program at Cedar Creek farm near Guelph gave conducted tours of the property which housed examples of an entire semester's work last Wednesday. The program is designed as an alternative to learning in regular classrooms, and is offered to grade 12 students. Anne

Charlebois, kneeling, points out one student's end product when doing a compost project. High school teacher Nick Boychuk, student Julia Thiel and Halton Hills mayor Pete Pomeroy look on. Almost 100 attended the open house.

Photo by HELEN MURRAY.

## Three days of fun at Back to Acton Days

Mayor Pete Pomeroy, MPP Julian Reed and Halton Hills councillors will be taking part in the official opening of Back to Acton Days weekend on Friday evening, June 29 in the downtown mall.

Committee members are pulling together all their parts of the program to assure three full days of fun for the

July 1 holiday weekend.

Saturday program on the mall includes bingo, pony rides, pet show, booths and sales. There will be the famous call-thumpian parade Saturday morning and a dance outdoors at the Station Hotel in the evening.

On Sunday the day's events will be in the park, climaxed by the annual

fireworks display. Also slated are horseshoe pitching, fish derby, soccer and entertainment.

Awards for the winning essays and posters will be presented Friday, June 19 at 2 p.m. The winning essays will appear in the Free Press and the posters will be in store windows.

John Barratt, who used to spend part of his mornings and afternoons in the Acton precinct, stopped. He and Insp. H. Dowdle, senior men, have gone on shift which makes one of them available to the public every day. The other is available for three of the week's afternoons.

That change makes a senior police officer available to the public more often. The senior man, though based in Georgetown, is not shackled there. He makes periodic trips to Acton.

Centring of a senior man in Georgetown for two shifts releases sergeants from some administrative tasks. They are then free to spend the shift supervising officers in the field, according to S.Sgt. Barratt. The sergeants are also available to the public.

Coupled with these moves is another which has the officers, who are to work their shift in Acton, reporting to Georgetown. This move is another aimed at raising the quality of service to the public, police claim.

Having constables report to Georgetown means each man will receive the same information at the start of shift from the sergeant on parade. Each patrolman should go into the field better prepared in terms of his knowledge of what is happening, said the

staff sergeant.

Luckers used in Acton have been taken to Georgetown.

An earlier change brought staggered shift changes to the district so there is always one man assigned to Acton.

Asked about the Acton precinct's status, the staff sergeant replied: "It is my opinion that the office in Acton will remain as an integral part of the operation as it exists."

The parading of officers in one place and having senior officers

available during days and most evenings is a second part of a plan which started going into operation in January.

At the start of the year Halton Regional Police created a new zone in north Halton which translates into one more man for the area.

In an unrelated development another level of supervision has been beefed up. A duty-inspector, based in Oakville, visits each division each shift as part of his duties to ensure there is a proper level of police work.

"I feel it would have longer term advantages and prevent future absorption by a regional commission," Mr. Reed said last week.

He said a single commission would benefit rural people who pay 25 per cent more than their urban counterparts.

The provincial proposal which received first reading at Queen's Park last week, will set up four new hydroelectric commissions in Burlington, Milton, Oakville and Halton Hills.

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## Police now start day in Georgetown

Increased supervision of police officers working Acton is one effect of recent changes in District One. Another change makes senior officers available to the public more often.

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organizations to remain intact.

A meeting is being held with Acton Hydro to discuss the province's proposal he said.

If the legislation is approved, four new commissions will come into existence Nov. 30, 1980, with transitional commissions preceding them.

Julian Reed



Rev. Leonard Ewing and wife Ethel were honored following services at St. Alban's Anglican Church on Sunday. Rev. and Mrs. Ewing received special gifts from parishioners before his retirement in July. A picnic followed on the premises at which Mayor Pete Pomeroy spoke of Rev. Ewing and his community involvement.

## Elizabeth Dr. residents annoyed but get only tar, chip road

Residents of Elizabeth Drive, in the Lakeview subdivision are angry, Mayor Pete Pomeroy told Halton Hills general committee Monday night.

He said the road paving in the recent reconstruction stops 100 feet short of the point the residents understood it would.

Pomeroy explained a letter was sent from the engineering department last fall indicating the paving would extend to Tidey Avenue.

"These people had the road torn up last year for storm sewers, this year for road work, and if it isn't completed now, probably again next year," said the mayor.

He said there doesn't seem to be money left to finish the extra 100 feet,

and asked the engineer to explain why the town's promise could not be carried out.

Town Engineer Bob Austin admitted he sent a letter but said it was a letter of information on the storm sewer construction primarily but also told of plans for the road. "I did not realize it was such a commitment on paper as it is," he pointed out he has no authority to commit council to any action.

Austin explained by the time the capital budget was passed and the design work done and tenders let, he realized the money would not go as far as they wished. He emphasized all the ministry subsidy is used up. He predicted an additional cost of \$12,000, with no subsidy to

complete the paving.

Austin said perhaps his wording of the letter led to the problem. He reminded councillors there are residents beyond the 100 foot strip who will not be satisfied if this piece is done. "Construction has to stop somewhere."

The town engineer assured council the 100 foot strip on Elizabeth Drive would receive a tar and chip surface treatment before the end of June.

General committee made no recommendation but will include this area in the June 21 works tour.

## MPP endorses commissions

Despite opposition, Halton MPP Julian Reed is supporting a provincial proposal for single hydro commission in Halton Hills.

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