

# Better communications need between police - public

Better communications between police, residents and merchants is needed to better policing in Acton, according to Halton Regional Police Staff Sergeant John Barratt.

In a bid to bridge the communications gap between the police and people, Sgt. Barratt represented the force at a joint meeting of the Acton Chamber of Commerce and the Business Improvement Area Wednesday evening in the library. The meeting was called after a letter appeared in this newspaper, which had been sent to the police commission from the Chamber of Commerce, concerning loitering and vandalism in the downtown core.

Sgt. Barratt explained that the new acting chief James Harding had brought with him a mood of optimism and had the entire force geared up with him.

Chamber secretary Janet Fleming told the group how there has been a change in the town in the six years she has lived here, which is not necessarily blamed on the police. "We need to work together with the police to try and solve the problem." She pointed out the problem is an old one which is just catching up with Acton.

Sgt. Barratt agreed, explaining Acton's problems are relative. He noted in other communities, Acton's problems are not as bad as theirs. "There has been a general decline in the moral standards of the public," he stated.

Local merchant Cory Van MerKesteen charged the police with spending too much time giving speeding tickets, instead of trying to control the vandalism on the main street.

Sgt. Barratt explained to the Chicken

and Pizza Spot owner that the force operates on priorities. Giving speeding tickets may seem useless to the merchants, but to the mothers who are worrying their children may be struck and killed by a speeding motorist, the police are doing a worthy service. "We are not going to ignore someone speeding down Acton Blvd. so we can have men downtown in case someone puts a rock through your window. The problems will not go away if you ignore them."

What seems unimportant to one person in town, is horrendous to others, and all must be dealt with, Sgt. Barratt stressed.

As far as vandalism is concerned, the staff sergeant told the group, Acton is no worse off than Milton or Georgetown. In fact, he continued, Acton has the best police protection per capita that any area in

the region.

Community Services chairperson Terry Grubbe said people are using the police as a scapegoat for regional government. She also voiced a rumor that Acton was the punishment detail for the regional officers and said she thought the idea was ridiculous. Sgt. Barratt explained that when the office was first opened all the men on duty were volunteers, many of whom knew the area. He also denied any punishment detail.

Mrs. Grubbe continued to tell Sgt. Barratt how well his men have worked with her with the Centre and how, on their own time they have brought in youths or others in need of help. She admitted however, the only thing she did not like about the police was the way they were transferred around the region. Sgt. Barratt said this was done

to ensure the men knew all the areas so if they were called in while someone was on holidays or ill, the officers on duty would know the area and not come into it cold. He noted the shifts are set up so a fresh man to the area is with one who is familiar to the area.

The police have always been accessible, Mrs. Grubbe said. "It is not a police problem, it is a community problem," she said.

"You get some really good men, but they are only men," Sgt. Barratt told the group. "If you hit them in their pride, don't expect a kiss on the cheek."

There are only about 20 youths in town who are the trouble makers he said, a statement backed by most of the merchants present.

However, the loitering bylaw does not

differentiate between a group of BIA people standing on the sidewalk and a group of youths hanging around, S.S. Barratt said. At the present time, the town of Halton Hills is looking into improving this bylaw. He explained Milton's revised loitering bylaw has been very successful at keeping loiterers off the streets.

A lot of people are not too willing to take the day off work and be a witness at a loitering or vandalism trial, Sgt. Barratt said.

Don Jameson, of Gayna Fashions pointed out many people fear revenge or threats should they charge someone. The staff sergeant explained that if this happens, it is obstruction of justice, and police can ask the judge to lock up the offender until his trial comes up.

Merchant Henry Stachyra challenged a

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# The Acton Free Press

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Eighteen Pages—Twenty Cents.



Dangerous Household Products was the theme of a puppet show at the Acton Public Library last week. Gayle Casey and Hinkley and Dolkel were on hand to teach the youngsters the dif-

ferent household danger signs. Sheri-Lyn Hopkins helps Ms. Casey while Grace Helene handled the puppets.

Photo by ROBIN INSCOPE

## Move to Montreal

# Disston closes doors

125 out of job

Some 125 employees at Disston Canada Inc., Acton will be out of a job on September 29.

The workers all received their notice Friday in a letter sent to them from Bob Lauzon, personnel manager of the head office in Mississauga. According to the letter, the entire plant operations will be closing down September 30. Disston is a Sandvik Group Company.

The decision to close the industry was made jointly by Disston Canada and R. Hoe and Co., who recently purchased the wood working portion of the business.

Because of a "serious profitability problem," Disston will be concentrating their resources on handsaws and metal cutting tools, according to Goran Sorman, of Disston head office. This concentration

will take place in Sandvik Canada Inc.'s present facilities in Montreal to utilize available capacity there.

There have been no offers of transfers to Disston facilities, Mr. Sorman said as all are fully equipped to take extra work.

Employees will be receiving severance pay, Mr. Sorman told the Acton Free Press.

Disston first came to

Acton in 1957, as a division of H. K. Porter Company (Canada) Limited. It had formerly been known as Henry Disston Co., located in Toronto since 1904, and was part of many plants across Canada.

There were three sections to the Acton Disston plant. The first, which still exists today produced all types of handsaws, circular saws, hacksaw frames and

blades for wood and metal and other materials, etc.

They were also into refractories, producing high heat insulating brick and mortars for steel and foundry industries. Disston also had a thermoid section which produced brake linings, clutch facings, electrical vinyl, insulating tape and radiator hose.

These were phased out until the present hand-

saw and metal cutting tools, and the wood working departments were all that was left.

In 1976, Sandvik Group bought out the entire Disston chain across Canada.

Disston originally settled in Acton from Toronto because the owners needed a spacious, modern facility on a major truck line, and they wanted to be fairly close to Toronto.

## LDC nips Sprackman

Halton Land Division Committee denied a severance bid by McNamara Corporation Ltd. for a possible road into a proposed subdivision on Acton's eastern fringe Tuesday night.

Committee considered the application premature because it is on agricultural land. Nearby lands are part of the Sprackman shopping centre proposal which Halton Hills council denied in February. Mr. Sprackman appealed

# Dip in tanning business linked to world situation

Beardmore and Co. Ltd. briefly closed down one of its departments earlier this year. The one-week shutdown is symptomatic of an industry-wide condition which also spills over from the United States.

Beardmore President Peter Dunham, in an interview last week,

highlighted problems facing the tanning industry and a course of action planned to combat the sudden and large scale drop in business. In the first two weeks of June bookings were down 58 per cent, part of a continuing decline that started early in May, said Mr. Dunham.

Business had been as expected until April of this year.

The short-term effect of the decline in orders

touched the labor force too. All tanneries, said Mr. Dunham, for some time this year have been on short time.

"We are very concerned about it (the decline) because we do not know the long term," said Beardmore's president.

What domestic tanners do know is the falling off of orders is linked to the importing of foreign leather.

Tanners in low-wage

paying countries also face the increased cost of raw hides; yet their products are being bought here by domestic shoe manufacturers.

Higher prices for shoe leathers were reasoned by Mr. Dunham to be caused by three main factors: 50 per cent higher demand from Asian countries, Latin American countries have withdrawn raw hides from world markets and fewer cattle are being

killed in Canada because of the rebuilding of herds.

The scale of South America's withdrawal of hides has been hidden to a degree until the recent start of herd cutbacks in the west. South America removed 25 per cent of its hide produce from the market while Canadian tanners enjoyed a bumper crop of domestic hides moving to market.

Meanwhile, 35 per cent of the continent's hide production is being exported to the Far East. About another 10 per cent goes to Europe and other Western Hemisphere countries.

Some of that 45 per cent returns to North America as leather which is able to compete well in price against the domestically tanned products.

As part of the solution to domestic tanning problems, Canadian tanners next month will be asking domestic shoe manufacturers to repay a favor. Tanners feel shoe manufacturers are taking "unfair advantage of the situation."

Shoe manufacturers are now doing to the tanners what shoe importers were doing to shoe manufacturers before last year, said Mr. Dunham.

Shoe importers were bringing many inexpensive foreign products into Canada. Shoe manufacturers and tanners successfully convinced the federal government for limits—not stoppages—on the number of pairs of shoes imported.

The result: more than 3,000 jobs were created in the shoe manufacturing and related industries.

The import quota card will be played by the tanners to the shoe manufacturers at Montreal in August.

Imposing of export quotas on hides is another solution pondered upon by other members of the tanning industry. A quota on exports, would, in theory, keep more hides in the country and therefore ease present shortages.

However, Mr. Dunham said, Canadian production of raw hides is small when compared with the Americans.

If American hides and leather industries won an export embargo from Washington, Ottawa may

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# OLRB clears Superior Glove union presses with another bid

by Eric Elstone

The Ontario Labor Relations Board (OLRB) cleared Superior Glove Works Ltd. of unjustified layoffs in a split decision handed down this week.

The board dismissed the complaint by the Canadian Union of Brewery, Flour, Cereal, Soft Drink and Distillery Workers that the layoff of 12 workers in early February was stimulated by union activity within the plant.

"Our conclusion... is that the lay offs were for reasons totally unrelated to the presence of the union at Superior Glove," stated the board vice-chairman Arthur Haldner.

Board member C.G. Bourne agreed with him.

"When the company's evidence is examined in its totality, there can be no doubt that the layoffs can be justified on economic grounds," according to the majority decision.

However, the one member of the three-man board which found in favor of the union stated in his report the layoffs were: "in part in order to thwart the union organizing campaign." He also said the economic evidence, which other board members believed justified the layoffs, was a self-serving attempt "to camouflage the real purpose of the layoffs".

Canadian Brewers union lawyer John McNamee and regional director Bill Rannachan expressed disappointment regarding the OLRB decision. As of Monday no decision on an appeal had been made.

The union could either make another application to have the workers reinstated or seek a judicial review through the Ontario Supreme Court.

Canadian Brewers will, however, press forward with an application to have it recognized as the

bargaining agent. The application was drawn up sometime ago, but withheld pending the results of the first bid. Mr. McNamee said the application was to be made Monday.

Company co-owner and general manager Frank Geng, who gave most of the company's testimony at the board, was not available for comment at press time. He has been in the Far East.

What burned union regional director Rannachan most was that the OLRB made no finding against the Superior Glove's management because of its conduct. The board did not consider it appropriate for the purpose of the union application to express any opinions regarding management's behavior.

Mr. Rannachan indicated the board recognized the layoffs were caused by the anti-union bias of the employer, but the board did nothing

about it. "I could understand the decision if they (board members) said the layoffs were for economic reasons but also that the company tried to chill the organizing campaign," Mr. Rannachan said.

The union director, like board member C.A. Ballentine—who dissented from the other members—said the least the board could have done was ensure the laid off workers would have rights of first recall in case Superior Glove starts hiring again.

"I'm so disappointed about this one. It's a defeat and it's not a defeat," said Mr. Rannachan.

The OLRB held four days of hearings in April and May on the Superior Glove matter. For much of the time plant manager Geng was on the stand.

The four-page majority report by the board described Mr. Geng's test-

imony on economic matter to be "explicit and precise" and also that in no respect was it discredited under cross-examination.

The majority members also noted that none of the union organizers, all of whom were known to the company, were laid off, or in any way made the subject of employer reprisals.

The majority report also weighted up some of the arguments from both sides in its findings. The board found that the contention the layoffs were, if not punishment, a signal to other workers what might await them, does not square with the evidence. Management's conduct was "by no means subtle, and we must agree with the contention of its counsel that if the respondent (the company) intended to make an example by the layoffs, it likely would have made its meaning plain."

Mr. Ballentine, the board member who dissented, had a different way of looking at the evidence. To him the union established "by clear evidence that... Geng, was vehemently opposed to the union, that he attempted to intimidate and coerce certain of its employees and that he implied should the union campaign, continue future layoffs may take place."

The 12 employees who were laid off were described by the board as being trainees.

Mr. Ballentine started off his dissenting opinion by saying he thought the majority decision is wrong "in relation to the Board's jurisprudence and does not provide a remedy for those employees whose rights have been clearly violated by the respondent (the company)".



Marjorie Naser of Georgetown looks over the six foot diameter needlework wall hanging of the Town of Halton Hills coat of arms, reflecting on the more than 500 hours of finger-numbing work put in by herself and Maria Jennings. The wall hangs will grace the new Halton Regional building, but before it leaves the area Mayor Peter Pomroy plans to display it in his store window.



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## C.F. Leatherland

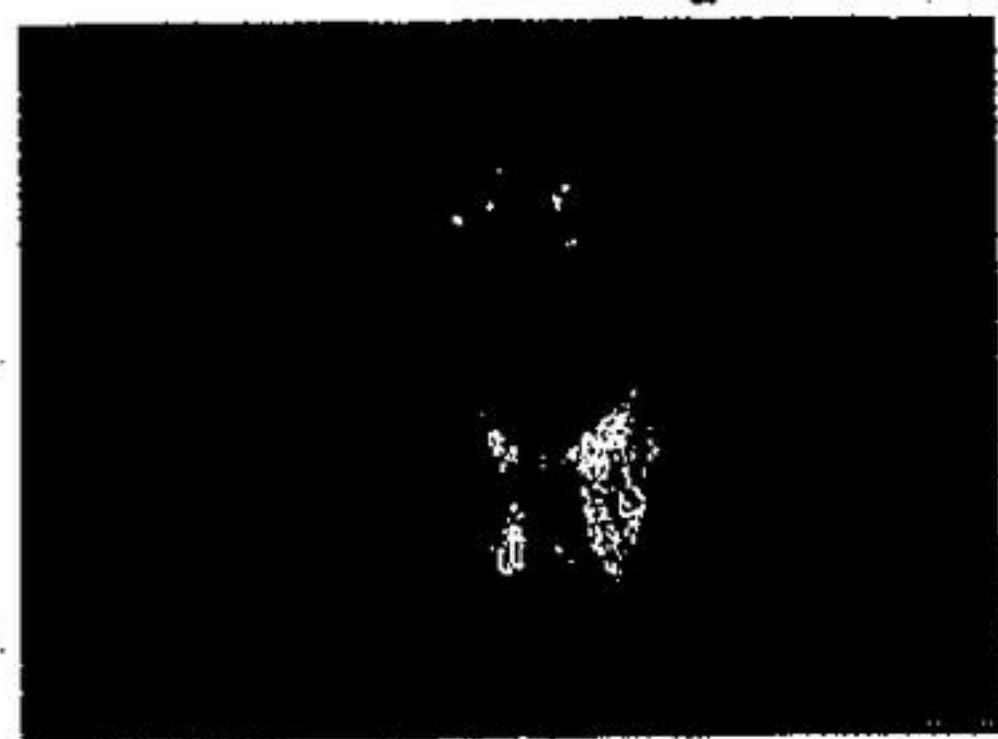
# Prominent Acton lawyer dies suddenly

Acton's first Queen's Council, Charles Leatherland, died in Guelph General Hospital last Thursday, as the result of a sudden heart attack.

Mr. Leatherland was born January 31, 1908 in Kingston and attended school in that city. He received an award for Latin in grade 13, before attending Queen's University in 1928. In 1932, Mr. Leatherland graduated from Osgoode Hall and began practicing law

that same year. In 1937, he came to Acton and opened his practice.

During his many years in Acton, Mr. Leatherland was a member of the YMCA, the Y's Men's Club, the Wellington County Law Association, Halton County Law Association (he was the first president), the Acton Investment Club, the Acton Curling Club, Acton town council, in 1908, the Ramees Temple, Walker Lodge, Guelph District Shrine Club



C. F. Leatherland

and the Moore Sovereign Consistory, Hamilton. He was appointed Queen's Council on January 1, 1956.

Mr. Leatherland was clerk-treasurer of Acton from 1937 to 1948.

Mr. Leatherland is survived by his wife, the former Ruth Irwin, 224 Mill St. E., and children, John, Waterloo, and Mrs. Ruthann Roszel, Acton. He is also survived by three grandchildren David, Jenny and Julie.

Rev. Leonard Ewing officiated at the funeral Saturday in Acton. Representatives of the Masonic Lodge attended. Pallbearers were Lou Bonnette, Acton, Charles Green, Constance Bay, Ontario, Aldo Braida, Gord Chapman, Lorne Youngblut and Ross Ballentine, all of Acton. Honorary pallbearers were George Robertson, Bill Benson, Neil Bowles and John Moles.

Interment was at Fairview Cemetery.